

## Stevenson Global Ed Students Collaborate with University of Michigan for International Clinical Research

In Nov & Dec, Stevenson Global Ed partnered with a University of Michigan clinical research group to collaborate on an international project. 129 Stevenson students contributed 468 total effort hours in 8 sessions and saved the project over \$3,500! All participants received a volunteer letter of appreciation listing their effort hours on official letterhead signed by the principal investigators of the research study from Univ. of Michigan and Univ. of Ghana. The Global Ed program received a \$500 donation and was awarded an appreciation plaque which was received by Mrs. Bergeski and Mrs. Van Horn in March.

Here's a link to pictures of some of the sessions:

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B28\\_gU1NgC5GRmg1SHgtLXo5T00&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B28_gU1NgC5GRmg1SHgtLXo5T00&usp=sharing)

Thanks to Mrs. Bergeski, GE staff and Stevenson administration for enabling this opportunity. Mrs. Roberge and Mr. Gabel even participated with the students. Special thanks to Mrs. Van Horn without whom this would not have been possible. She facilitated this entire effort and spent so many of her planning periods, after school times and Saturdays to coordinate GE students, move and store supplies and make this opportunity possible.

### Overall Project:

The H3Africa (Human, Heredity and Health in Africa) overall project goal is to improve health in African populations by studying genetic and environmental factors that contribute to common diseases. At University of Michigan, we are studying chronic kidney disease (CKD) and its genetic associations. Our project, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) involves gathering information about people's medical and environmental history that can be analyzed to make connections about people with specific genes and CKD. In analyzing data from 8000 patients from 9 clinical sites in Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya conclusions from the study can be used to contribute to further studies and ultimately to find a cure.

### GE students' task and its impact on the overall project:

GE students assembled and packaged nearly 2000 medical specimen kits which will be used for various types of blood, urine and saliva specimens during collection, analysis, shipping and storage. I recommended SHS GE students for this task because I know they have a college-level work ethic and would be able to appreciate the global implications of international research.



L to R: Jillian Wilson, H3Africa Project Manager, University of Michigan, Mrs. Van Horn, SHS GE Donna Smith, H3Africa Research Data Manager, University of Michigan (GE Parent)



Mrs. Bergeski, SHS GE Program Director