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## UR Splash Day Report

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**Summary of Event:** We held UR Splash Day on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm in various reserved classrooms at the University of Rochester campus. Check-in started at 9:30 am where students came to Gleason Library to pick-up their schedules, school map, and identification lanyards. From Gleason, students were escorted by volunteers to the opening ceremony in Dewey 1-101. The opening ceremony started at 10:45 am where Julian Maceren spoke for 5 minutes welcoming students to UR and highlighting the mission of UR Splash and Splash Day. From the opening ceremony, volunteers helped students get to their classes throughout the day.

From “Explosive Chemistry” to “Yoga” to “The Neuroscience of Motivation”, we were excited to see how deeply engaged the high school students were in their classes.<sup>1</sup> They were asking questions, taking notes, and reacting excitedly to novel concepts and demonstrations. Teachers came up to us after the event saying how fun it was to teach an engaged and fascinated audience and that they hope we hold this event again next year.

Through conversations during lunchtime, we learned how much Splash Day impacted each student. One student expressed that he has always wanted to study science and medicine but never had the proper resources at his school to do so. Taking the Explosive Chemistry and First-Aid classes at Splash Day really cemented his passion for science and medicine and he hopes to take AP Chemistry next year. Another student asked whether we had any other programs planned for the year because she was interested in learning how to dance and exploring different foreign languages—subjects that we unfortunately did not have to offer that day. As a student group that seeks to academically empower high school students and inspire intellectual exploration, this feedback meant the world to us. These kids were students with infinite passions, but limited resources, and we are glad that even from a one-day experience with 50-minute classes, they were able to take a lot out of the event!

### Event Statistics:

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Number of teachers: 20<sup>2</sup>

Number of high school students: 7

Number of undergraduate students: 15

Number of volunteers: 21

Number of chaperones for the event: 4

Participating Schools: School Without Walls, School of the Arts, Edison Career and Technology

### Future Direction:

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We definitely want to improve our numbers and reach out to more schools and students. It was unfortunate that two schools cancelled on us the day before the event, but we are hopeful that now that we have established a relationship with three schools and a basis for Splash, next year we can recruit more students. We are hoping to spend next semester doing more consistent volunteer programs such as weekly or monthly visits to high schools where we teach different classes after school. At the end of the semester we are also hoping to hold our second Splash Day.

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<sup>1</sup> See our website [ursplash.learningu.edu](http://ursplash.learningu.edu)

<sup>2</sup> We initially had 36 approved and trained teachers, but due to last minute cancellation by the schools, only 20 were able to teach for Splash Day

# UR Splash Day Pictures

