



"I will use *Bridge Basics* to relate math to real life situations; to inspire students with untapped artistic and math talents; to put 'fun' in school."

—Jim Conner, Overbrook High School Teacher, Philadelphia

For more than 15 years, the National Building Museum's *Bridge Basics* program has used bridge engineering and design to help children learn critical math and science skills. The program engages the students as engineers with the complex challenge of bridge making and teaches them the skills necessary to design a solution. The kit requires students to identify problems, imagine solutions, test their ideas, construct a model, and reflect on their work through evaluation.

In the fall of 2006, with the support of the Construction Industry Round Table, the Museum launched the *Bridge Basics Program Kit*, which includes the materials and lesson plans necessary for teachers to recreate the Museum's popular school program in their own classrooms around the country. This is the first in a series of curriculum kits created by the Museum that demonstrate the value of using **design education** to teach **math, science, civics, and communication skills**, and to inspire young people to consider careers in the design and building industries.

IN THE CLASSROOM

- The Museum has **distributed more than 150 *Bridge Basics Program Kits*** to schools in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. at no cost to teachers.
- The kit meets **National Standards of Learning** across multiple disciplines, including language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and arts. It is being used by art, math, science, and physics teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools.
- A formal evaluation confirms that among surveyed 10th graders, general **interest in learning about building careers increased by 58%** after completing the *Bridge Basics* program in the classroom.
- The *Bridge Basics Program Kit* is also a **great educational resource** for after-school programs, camps, and other educational settings.

PARTNERSHIPS AND DISTRIBUTION

- In a partnership with Turner Construction Company, the *Bridge Basics Program Kits* are being distributed, free of charge, and with **training to teachers** in Philadelphia.
- With the support of the Government of the District of Columbia, 100 teachers are using *Bridge Basics* in the nation's capital, resulting in an average 3,000 D.C. school children taught inside the classroom annually.
- The kit has been **integrated into after-school learning** by the ACE Mentor Program at a national level.
- The Museum is currently exploring opportunities to expand distribution of the *Bridge Basics Program Kit* in other **cities across the nation**.
- Partners have an opportunity to support their local community and connect their building industry employees with the young builders of tomorrow.

For more information on bringing *Bridge Basics* to your community, contact the National Building Museum's Development Department at 202.272.2448.

