The NJ Department of Education has funded the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Dr. Susan Polirstok, Dean of the College of Education at Kean University will direct the program.

Kean University’s Learning Adventures 21st Century Community Learning Center is a unique after school and summer learning experience that will be located within Walter O. Krumbiegel Middle School, in Hillside, NJ, and administered by Kean University’s College of Education.

Career Exploration is the program theme and 135 W.O.K. and Trinity Temple Academy students in grades 6 through 8 will explore careers in Healthcare, Education, Business, Banking and Hospitality. They will also learn about Sustainability Science, the fastest growing career path in the United States and visit sites to see careers in action.

Participants will learn skills needed for success in 21st century careers - the 4 C’s: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Communication; Collaboration; and Creativity and Innovation.

21st century career skills in communication will be developed through poetry, drama and storytelling. Critical thinking and problem solving will be developed via technology, arts and simulation activities. Through an array of activities, Students will develop self-awareness, physical fitness and collaborative skills, building their self-confidence and academic strengths.

Middle level students are at a pivotal time in their educational and vocational careers. Students will complete the NJ Career Assistance Navigator Profile, NJCAN, and develop an online profile of career goals and a plan for achieving them. Sessions will be offered for parents by New Jersey’s Statewide Parent Advocacy Network on Think College Early to support these career plans.

The after school component will operate five days a week from 3:20pm - 6:20pm, October 1, 2013 through June 13, 2014. The summer component will operate five days a week, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, July 7 through August 8, 2014. The after school program features a nutritious snack, academic remediation, academic enrichment and homework support. The summer program provides a nutritious snack, academic remediation and enrichment.