The highly anticipated Faculty Fair attracted the attendance of 160 STEAM-D and SMP learners which exposed them to a variety of academic pathways available at UofT. The learners interacted with 10 departments across the Temerty Faculty of Medicine alongside others including UofT’s Central Recruitment and Admissions Office, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering and the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

The Hispanic Medical Students Association (HMSA) taught STEAM-D students about vital signs and physical examination techniques. Students learned how to check pulses, measure heart rate, respiratory rate, use stethoscopes to listen to the heart, and take blood pressure! Elements of the respiratory lung exam were also reviewed.

Professor Jongstra-Bilen discussed the role of the immune system in atherosclerosis, a medical condition where plaque blocks blood vessels. She also discussed the association between atherosclerosis, heart attacks, and stroke. She wrapped up her presentation by sharing advice on developing research questions, dealing with failure, and pursuing a career in immunology.

STEAM-D concluded the week by exploring the social determinants of health at the YMCA, Regent Park Community Health Center, and a Community Walk. At the YMCA, students participated in the Green Roof Revitalization Project, where they helped plant new trees to increase green spaces. At Regent Park Community Health Center, students supported a family resource drop-in program by facilitating recreational activities for children and their families. From this experience, STEAM-D students learned about the importance of social support networks; the impact of systemic barriers on marginalized families, and the positive influence of early childhood development activities. Students who went on the Community Walk in the Annex and Bay Corridor neighborhoods critically explored a case study centered around the life of a university student by examining their financial position in relations to housing, food security, physical & mental health etc.