

"When I grow up, I want to go to an engineering school like GIST"  
GIST hosts 'AI Science Camp' for elementary school students,  
supporting children's exploration of science and technology  
careers through AI-specific experiences

- Approximately 60 elementary school students in grades 4-6, recommended by the Army Sangmu Corps and Gwangyang Steel, MOU-signing organizations, participated, nurturing their dreams of becoming future science leaders
- A variety of unique experiences awaited them on the research-focused university campus, including a special lecture by Professor Jung Won Yoon of the Department of AI Convergence, hands-on experience with a self-driving car kit with a student mentor, a rocket launch experience, and a tour of the Supercomputing Center



▲ The GIST Social Contribution Group invited elementary school students from institutions with which it has signed an MOU to a "Science Camp (AI Science Camp)" and took a commemorative photo.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that it held the "AI Science Camp with GIST" during summer vacation to discover future science and technology talent and support career exploration in science and engineering.

The "Science Camp," a knowledge-sharing program run by GIST's Social Contribution Group, "Pium," invited elementary school students in grades 4-6 recommended by institutions with which GIST has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to campus.

This year's camp was held for approximately 60 students recommended by MOU partners, the Army Sangmu Corps (July 24) and Gwangyang Iron and Steel Company (August 12). The customized career exploration program, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI), received a positive response.

The participating children experienced the lecture halls, laboratories, and campus of a research-oriented university firsthand through various programs such as special AI lectures by GIST faculty, campus tours, hands-on training with student mentors, and laboratory visits.

First, Professor Jung Won Yoon of the Department of AI Convergence gave a special lecture on "Core Technologies and the Future of Medical Robots: Wearable Robots and Nanorobots." Professor Yoon presented the current state of research on the convergence of medical technology and AI robots in an engaging and accessible way, tailored to elementary school students.

The video presentation of real-world examples of wearable robots and nano-scale medical robotics technology captured the attention of both children and their parents.

The following "Kit Class with Mentors" provided hands-on experience with the principles of AI technology through hands-on experience assembling and coding self-driving car kits with GIST student mentors. Observing their miniature cars avoiding obstacles and maneuvering, the children fostered a sense of excitement and accomplishment in science and technology.



▲ Children participating in the GIST AI Science Camp pose for a commemorative photo after completing their self-driving car kits.

Additionally, the GIST student club "Planetary Exploration Research Institute," which researches and develops space launch vehicles, conducted a rocket launch experience, stimulating interest in space science by observing a model rocket launch.

Following the hands-on experience, the children were given the opportunity to tour the campus' cutting-edge research facilities. They visited the Supercomputing Center, home to "Dream-AI," the only Korean university to rank among the top 500 supercomputers, and witnessed the practical application of large-scale computing equipment.

Furthermore, they toured the central library and other major buildings, experiencing classrooms, study spaces, and other aspects of campus life.

This camp went beyond simple experiences and was part of GIST's "Science Culture Expansion Project," which aims to design the future together with the local community. Student mentors provided peer-level explanations and advice, cultivating curiosity and a willingness to take on challenges in science for the participating children and instilling hope and anticipation in parents that their children can grow in the fields of science and technology.

Jae Gwan Kim, Dean of Office of International and Public Affairs, stated, "I hope this AI Science Camp will foster children's curiosity about science and inspire them to dream of becoming future 'science leaders.'" He added, "GIST's social contribution group, 'Pium,' will continue to provide youth with valuable science and engineering experiences and grow together with the local community."

