Urban students' ancestry added to National Geographic project

Through City College biology professor Michael Hickerson's project, 200 students are participating in a global research initiative run by National Geographic called the Genographic Project, which uses DNA to map human migration throughout history.

Hickerson secured a National Science Foundation grant to purchase 200 National Geographic Geno 2.0 kits — which test for nearly 150,000 DNA markers — one for each student.

Hickerson and his students will present results from the initiative — one of the most recent examples of the City University of New York's commitment to STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math — on April 23 at a second American Museum of Natural History event.

"Everybody has an idea of where in the world their ancestors come from," Hickerson told students during last week's anthropological genomics class. "For some of you, it's going to be very complex."

Read the full, original story: STEM is the future: Students see where their genes fit