For more than two decades, K-12 students have been gathering in classrooms after school to explore problem solving and non-curriculum based mathematics in programs run by universities across the United States called Math Circles. While there have been many successful variations of these programs, recent efforts have focused on programs that went beyond existing models and strived to create more engaged community-responsive projects that encourage student participants in an effort to reduce community mathematical illiteracy while encouraging these same students to envision long-term careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This presentation will discuss how unique such efforts are in the context of the broader national Math Circle movement, will discuss one group’s experience in creating such a program, will provide some analysis of what made us successful, and end with some thoughts about where that leaves the national movement for future successful projects. (Received September 17, 2019)