

# STEM INSTITUTE

SUMMER 2020



## 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR FOR STEM GOES VIRTUAL

The 2020 Summer STEM Institute, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program, was an institute like no other.

As COVID-19 led to the closing of school buildings in mid-March, the Summer STEM planning team continued moving forward, lining up the largest selection of topics since its inception. They continued planning, even though they were unsure what the summer would bring.

Then, when KSU closed its campus to all summer programs, the team was looking at canceling the program. But, at the team meeting, 383 colleagues started asking, “What if?”

Summer programs throughout the community had been shut down, and the team—with the support of USD

383 administration—asked the teachers who had committed to teach in-person classes if they would be willing to go online. While they hoped to provide a few options, they never dreamed that 20-some teachers would sign on.

Within days, the team began shifting directions—not only taking it online, but altering enrollment and opening it up to out-of-district students, as well.

As the program kicked off June 1, approximately 200 middle schoolers participated in 20-plus topics. Many were from the USD 383 district, but others came from across Kansas—and as far away as Minnesota—to join the hands-on activities.

Plus, 40 or so KSU Core Teaching Skills students saw veteran teachers

alter their in-person lessons to fit the online format, reinforcing the idea that good teachers find a way to help students learn no matter what. Core students also gained valuable experience creating videos, leading classes and break-out sessions on Zoom, and connecting with the middle schoolers. They learned that teaching remotely is different, but so much can still be accomplished. The program concluded with a face-to-face/virtual showcase.

STEM Summer Institute 2020 was groundbreaking and a true example of how USD 383 and the COE were flexible with plans and determined to continue to provide STEM activities at a time when students, parents, and the community needed them.

## SPECIAL THANKS

The 2020 Summer STEM Institute wouldn't have happened if not for the dedication of many individuals. We'd like to thank USD 383 Supt. Marvin Wade, KSU COE Dean Debbie Mercer, and Assistant Dean of Teacher Education Todd Goodson for supporting our journey switching the camp to an online opportunity.

Others leading the way: USD 383 Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Paula Hough, STEM principals Deb Nauwerth and Sheila Stephens, technology experts Duke Harmon and Lucas Loughmiller, and all-around friend of STEM Diane Daniel. And STEM wouldn't have been nearly as meaningful for our Core Teaching Skills if not for Kaylee Myers, instructor in the COE's Curriculum and Instruction Department.

And, last but not least, thank you to the teachers who stepped up in incredible fashion, parents who provided great support, and our Core students who will be amazing future teachers.

Thank you all.

## OUR SLATE OF CLASSES

<b>Flight Engineering</b>
<b>Thinking Through Games 1</b>
<b>M.U.S.I.C.</b>
<b>CSI</b>
<b>Story Makers</b>
<b>Exploring Renewable Energy</b>
<b>Math in the Real World</b>
<b>Give Your Writing STEAM</b>
<b>Science of Food</b>
<b>Game Theory</b>
<b>Survivor!</b>
<b>3D Printing for Beginners</b>
<b>Fill Your Head with Tech Ed</b>
<b>Engineering Design Challenge</b>
<b>Thinking Through Games 2</b>
<b>Exploring the Beauty of Mathematical Art</b>
<b>Scratch to Python</b>
<b>Digital Media/Journalism</b>
<b>Stop Motion Animation and Tynker Time</b>
<b>Science of Sport</b>
<b>Adaptation</b>

### Uni Rabbit

Distant cousin of the Jackalope



The Uni Rabbit was one of the creations students made in the Adaptation class offered in Summer STEM.