In our second summer offering Virtual STEAM to middle schoolers, we were able to nearly double the number of topics offered, while watching our Kansas program shift to international sites as well.

Our enrollment reached 385—a record year, thanks to the efforts of K-State College of Education’s Global Education Office (GEO) which helped turn the event to an international experience.

Besides individual students, a Kansas rural school district and a home-school group, we had a total of 365 students from Colombia, Ecuador, Nigeria and Japan find out what Virtual STEAM is all about.

“I am amazed at the opportunities the international participation meant for everyone involved,” said Lori Goodson, assistant professor with K-State College of Education and coordinator of the Virtual STEAM program.

“The program, in its second year, reached approximately 385 international and Kansas students.”
This summer, as an instructor for Kansas State University’s Virtual Summer STEAM academy class, I had the amazing opportunity to do two things I have never done before.

The first was teaching middle school students about the power of words to share, reveal and express themselves. With 25 years of teaching focused mostly at the high school level, I wondered if I would connect in the same way with 6th-8th grade students. I did. I found this age to be open, authentic and excited about learning just for the magic of learning. I also found inspiration from the other instructors. They shared the same passion for students and learning and teaching as I did. The classes open up such a unique way for students and teachers to connect.

The second new experience came as a surprise just a few weeks before classes started. KSU Virtual STEAM announced they were opening up the academy to international students. Virtually they hoped to connect middle school students from anywhere in the world. Soon I learned students from Columbia, Ecuador, Japan, and Nigeria would be attending my class. To say this seemed overwhelming would be true. To say there was a learning curve to having a translator and adapting content would be an understatement. To say it was an experience I can’t wait to do again next summer would be an emphatic yes. In my class we explored both the visible and invisible sides to all of us. We wrote haikus and Who I Am poems and translated all of the work into ciphers and secret codes. Students shared all of their individual work in books created on Book Creator. Only other students who “knew the code” could read others’ work.

Sitting in class each day, students thousands of miles apart worked on the same assignments and shared their created work. It was fantastic. Seared into my mind is one moment that encapsulates the summer for me. A student sitting in a classroom in Kansas and another sitting in a classroom in Ecuador shared, on my count of three, the answer to a secret message I had sent to be decoded.

Two voices sharing the same answer 3,000 miles apart. Two students who were learning together. Two students who would have not had the chance to peek into another classroom in another country if STEAM had not opened up the opportunity.

Was it perfect the first time out? Of course not. Technical issues, time differences and connectivity were obstacles to be worked out. Will the process be smoother and more streamlined as we do it again next year? Of course.

But this summer, with some of us sitting in our living rooms, some at the kitchen table, some in a small classroom, and others in a large room with every chair filled, through the click of a Zoom button we were connected, and it was amazing!
El vínculo entre Kansas State University y ULEAM hizo posible que la UEP Teresa de Calcuta y UEP Talentos de Manta participaran del SUMMER CAMP STEAM en junio 2022.

Manta.

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La carrera Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros PINE impulsa esta cooperación institucional para fortalecer la educación en Manta.

Los estudiantes de las instituciones educativas aprendieron con metodología STEAM (ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Artes y Música) sobre temas como: M.U.S.I.C USING STEM, STOP MOTION, SECRET CODES, Sports e Engineering.

Celebration of arts...

La ULEAM con la carrera PINE, formó a los futuros docentes de inglés y sus maestros son parte del Proyecto Camino con la Universidad Estatal de Kansas. El profesor Jonny Vílaí fue invitado el Summer Camp en UEP TALENTOS y el profesor Eder Intriago acompañó a la UEP TERESA DE CALCUTA.

Los docentes están agradecidos con las instituciones educativas por la apertura para ejecutar el SUMMER camp 2022. La Licda. Isabel Veliz, docente de inglés de la UEP Teresa de Calcuta organizó un evento de clausura del Summer steam Camp para felicitar a los estudiantes y agradecer a las universidades.

Mag. Nelly Holguín cuando se dirigía a los presentes del vínculo entre Kansas State University y ULEAM hizo posible que la UEP Teresa de Calcuta...
Take a Visual Tour of Our STEAM Sites
Our Amazing Classes…and Our Equally Amazing Teachers

Celebrating the “Art” in Language Arts
– Kayln Hoppe, K-State College of Education

Debate: The Art of Argument
– Annie Goodson, Blue Valley USD 229

M.U.S.I.C (Music Using STEM Is Cool)
– Jessica Vanstory, K-State Music Education student

Planet Podcast
– Shelly Camba, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383

Powers Unite: Superhero and Villain STEAM
– Lori Rice, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383

Sports Science
– Angie Messer, K-State College of Education

Stop Motion Animation: Let’s Make a Movie
– Rachael Asbury, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383

Writing Secret Codes, Riddles and Hidden Messages: Can You Hide in Plain Sight?
– Anissa Bigler, Twin Valley USD 240

Join the Fun in Summer 2023!

We’re already gearing up for next summer! If you are interested in participating, please contact K-State COE’s Virtual STEAM Principal Calista Speake at virtualsteam@ksu.edu.