



# Newsletter

August 2021, Volume 3, Issue 1

## Welcome back, Mavericks!

We're excited to see you on campus again and cannot wait to see what the new academic year brings. This edition of our newsletter serves as the launch of our third volume, thus signifying the start of the Center's third year.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Upcoming Events
- New IT Accessibility Training
- NE STEM Spotlight: Maggie Kehler
- K-12 Teachers Present Translational Science Research Projects at 2021 TRPP Poster Symposium
- Omaha STEM Ecosystem announcements
- Resources & Opportunities
- STEM Scramble

We are eager to welcome you to workshops and panel discussions this fall. To stay apprised of upcoming events, you can always subscribe to our calendar in Outlook. This fall we will focus on teaching practices, including a Teaching Excellence Summit in October. The first event focused on teaching will include a faculty panel hosted by Dr. Tammie Kennedy in August. We hope that you will join us as your schedule allows throughout the year ahead.

While we look forward to the programming ahead, we hope that you will read the stories of hardworking students, staff, and faculty from summer opportunities and smile along with us at the committed STEM professionals aiming to provide opportunities for youth, teachers, and community partners, such as via the Teacher-Researcher Partnership Program (celebrating its 7th year).

As the academic year begins, time becomes more challenging. Take a short break and complete the STEM Scramble on page 5.

Finally, if you have an impactful STEM story to tell then we would love to help you amplify your excellence by including your work in the newsletter or the weekly email. You can submit stories via our website or via [unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu](mailto:unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu). STEM on!



Follow us on Twitter!

@UNOSTEMTRAIL



# Upcoming Events



## Panel: Teaching Reflections from the STEM TRAIL PD Fellows and A&S Exploratory Studies Faculty

Friday, Aug. 27 | 11:00am -12:00pm | [RSVP Here](#)

 **In-Person Event** - UNO Thompson Alumni Center, Centennial Hall

### Panel Moderator:

Tammie Kennedy, Exploratory and Interdisciplinary Studies, Director

### Panelists:

Rachel Bash (EXPL Faculty) | Isabelle Beulaygue (EXPL Faculty)  
Agatha Owora (STEM TPID Fellow) | Kyle Reestman (STEM TPID Fellow)

## University of Nebraska: Center for Biomedical Informatics Research and Innovation (CBIRI)

Friday, Sept. 24 | 11:00am -12:00pm | [RSVP Here](#)

**Online Event** - Information will be sent after rsvp

### Facilitators:

Dr. Ann Fruling and Dr. Babu Guda

This presentation will provide an overview of CBIRI and facilitate an open forum on opportunities for faculty, students and community partners to connect with CBIRI's biomedical informatics resources and expertise and collaborate with CBIRI researchers.



## New IT Accessibility Training

This [short optional training](#) of around 10 minutes of video and five short questions (around 20 minutes total), will give you a grasp on IT Accessibility fundamentals:

- What the ADA and Section 504 is
- Examples of assistive technology commonly used
- The University's ICT Accessibility Policy and Procedures
- Procurement rules to vet and review bought or built software
- An overview of important steps to create accessible content
- On-campus resources, offices and contacts for further training and information

Contact Jason Buzzell, Lead, IT Accessibility at [jbuzzell@unomaha.edu](mailto:jbuzzell@unomaha.edu) if you have questions or feedback.

# NE STEM Spotlight: Maggie Kehler

Summer 2021 proved to be a productive and successful time for the [NE STEM 4U program](#), as 10 schools received quality, [hands-on programming](#) in STEM from undergraduate students from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Despite the Pandemic and the fact that afterschool programming was remote during the entirety of the 2020-2021 year, the program was able to return to in-person for the summer, a welcomed change to stoke the fires of curiosity for youth across Omaha.

Maggie Kehler, an undergraduate officer for the NE STEM 4U program, was a driving force behind this success. Maggie's role for the program was not only to serve as a mentor, but in the logistics of prepping/preparing supplies for the sites this summer. Her leadership made for a fluid process that allowed for both undergraduate mentors and the youth to have positive experiences.

"She was always in the NE STEM room, always organizing. When mentors came to pick up supplies, she was there to make sure they had everything they needed and to check in with them" says [Nik Stevenson](#), the NE STEM 4U Program Coordinator.

When asked what attributed to her abilities to make NE STEM 4U a well-oiled machine during the summer, Maggie stated "Noyce helped organize me. The professional development I have received has helped me be more organized. It has also helped having [Dr. C. \[Cutucache\]](#) as a mentor, as she is a huge role model for me."



Photo of Maggie Kehler

Currently entering her 4th year in the NE STEM 4U program, Maggie has found great joy in her NE STEM interactions. Her most memorable interactions with the youth included the feelings of making a difference, as she highlighted one student told her how much she loved having her [Maggie] as a mentor and that she loved the program. Maggie currently is dual-majoring in Biology and Secondary Education. A member of the [NoyceSCIENCE](#) program, she is excited to become a secondary education teacher.

**“ NE STEM has taught me that every person is going to make an impact some way, somehow. No matter how small that impact may seem, it can actually be rather big. ”**

"Someone told me once that if you have a backup plan in the first place, that's what you wanted to do." For Maggie, Pre-Med was her initial ambition, but that statement resonated so much so with her that she found teaching as a calling she had to answer.

Outside of her successes at UNO, Maggie loves to be outside to take walks and tend to her garden that includes pumpkins. Baking is one of her favorite things to do, with cinnamon rolls being one of her specialties. Just ask the mentors, there's occasionally tasty goodies in the NE STEM room ready to be eaten!

Growth. Gratitude. Grateful—these are all words that came to Maggie's mind when asked to describe what the program meant to her. Maggie stated that NE STEM exposed her to cultures much different than her small town.

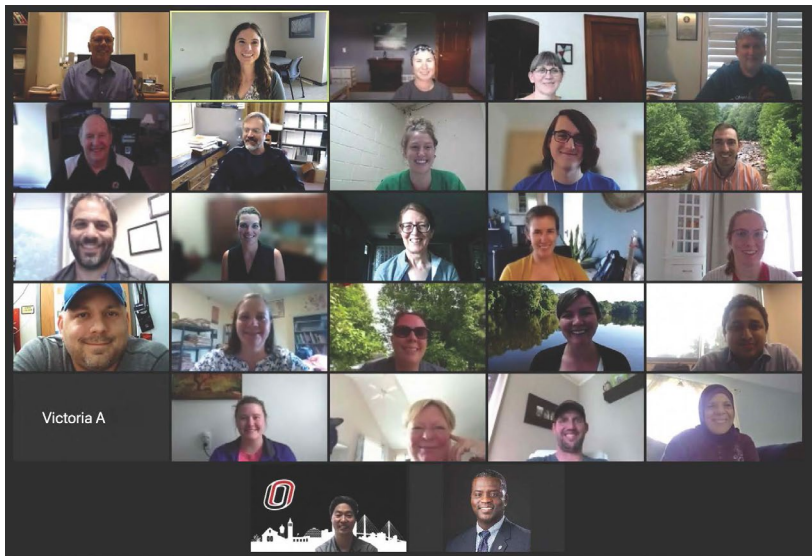
Maggie is gearing up for her student teaching experience this year and will be graduating in the Spring of 2022, where she will then be looking for teaching opportunities. Maggie's leadership has been a pillar in the success of the NE STEM 4U program. When reflecting back on the call to apply to be an officer for the program, Maggie smiled and said, "I would do it again in a heartbeat. It has been a lot of work, but it has been so rewarding."

# K-12 Teachers Present Translational Science Research Projects at 2021 TRPP Poster Symposium

**The virtual event featured the results of research collaborations between OPS teachers & UNO faculty researchers.**

Twelve Teacher-Researchers from 11 schools/programs within Omaha Public Schools presented their translational science research projects at the 7th Annual [Teacher-Researcher Partnership Program \(TRPP\)](#) Poster Symposium on Wednesday, July 14th, 2021. The program is designed to enhance science literacy by providing opportunities for K-12 teachers and their students to become engaged in authentic scientific research. Participating teachers conducted immersive research projects in collaboration with UNO faculty mentors across five university science departments over a 6-week research period in June and July. In addition to the research, TRPP 2021 members convened weekly via Zoom for a science journal club focused on research process and translation to the K-12 environment. The TRPP is supported by a grant from the Sherwood Foundation #5444, under the leadership of Lead PI Dr. William Tapprich and Co-PIs Dr. Christine Cutucache and Dr. Neal Grandgenett.

[Here is a summary](#) of 2021 TRPP research partnerships and projects. [Click here](#) to view the full program and poster gallery.



*Photo of the virtual TRPP poster symposium, provided by Heather Leas*

## Explore the STEM Community Platform

Help us to create a robust STEM community with the STEM Community Platform. Check out our platform to learn all about STEM offerings, STEM careers and to gain valuable resources. We are continually updating our platform and would love your support to make it better. Please consider joining this community partnership by making a donation, becoming a sponsor or simply adding your STEM programming to the STEM

Community Platform at [stemplatform.org](http://stemplatform.org). We would love it if you could take a look at the Science section of the Career Exploration page and give any feedback if you have some. Thank you for your support!

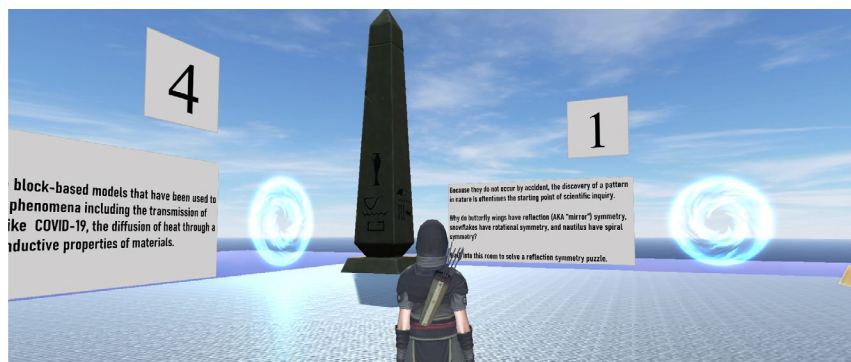
## Omaha STEM Ecosystem Roundtable Discussions

Join the virtual roundtable on **August 26** with a panel discussion about what businesses are looking for from students and educational systems in regards to internships. If you have not yet registered for this roundtable event, please do so at OSE. Please pass on the invitation and registration link so that we can continue to connect, cultivate and advance the STEM community in the Omaha area. Through the generosity of our sponsors this event will be offered with no fee.

Register: [ose.unomaha.edu/register](http://ose.unomaha.edu/register) Don't forget to enter code: **OSERT2021**



# Resources & Opportunities



## 3D virtual tour of CSCI 1280

This is a third-person game-like experience created by [Dr. Victor Winter](#). The character can be moved using the WASD keys (w = forward) and the player's direction is controlled by the mouse. The first time you load the game (laptop or desktop) it will take about 2 minutes. [Click here for the website.](#)



Photo by Cassie Matias on Unsplash

## STEM Scramble!

**SUVIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZNALYAE** \_\_\_\_\_

**MXEETRE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EIACLRG** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVRVSIU** \_\_\_\_\_

Need a hint and curious why these words matter this month?

**Check it out!**



**Consider a Gift, Support an Intern at your Company, or Volunteer!**

**Interested in donating? Please consider contributions to our UNO STEM TRAIL Center Excellence Fund #01149830 at the Nebraska University Foundation:**

**Checks can be mailed to:**

University of Nebraska Foundation  
PO Box 3465  
Omaha, NE 68103-0465

**reference: 01149830 - UNO STEM TRAIL Center Excellence Fund**

[Or gifts can be remitted electronically.](#)

Let us know how we can support you:

[unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu](mailto:unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu)



[Join Our Email List](#)

**Have an idea for future programming? Interested in contributing your time or talents to the STC? Contact us!**

STEM TRAIL Center [unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu](mailto:unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu)  
6705 Dodge Street, Thompson Alumni Center 204B &C | Omaha, NE 68182  
402.554.2917 | [unomaha.edu](http://unomaha.edu) | [stemtrail.unomaha.edu](http://stemtrail.unomaha.edu)

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment. UNO is an AA/EEO/ADA institution. For Title IX concerns, please contact the Title IX Coordinator (phone: 402.554.2120). For ADA/504 accommodations or assistance, please call/contact the ADA/504 Coordinator (phone 402.554.2463) or the Accessibility Services Center (phone: 402.554.2872).

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha