

# UNO STEM TRAIL CENTER

August 31, 2023



## Creating Innovations in STEM Education

**We create innovations in STEM education.** By synergizing UNO faculty research with educational excellence and community engagement, we build a **stronger STEM workforce**, a metro area populated with engaged citizens, and educational opportunities that are accessible and high-impact, driving **social mobility**.

The STEM TRAIL Center operationalizes the **UNO STEM Strategic Plan**, which was developed through the work of 65 faculty, staff, and administrators representing all six academic colleges. Working together, we charted a path for the creation of cross-disciplinary support systems and the consolidation of overlapping activity, with a special focus on **collaboration** rather than competition.

*“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”*

I'm excited to share our progress. Over the past two years, we have achieved a **192% increase** in the total external awards supported by the Center. We expect to directly

impact more than **12,000 community members** this coming year, including about **2,000 area youth** (and future Mavericks!) who will spend the summer on our campus. We'll be opening more than **8,400 square feet** of renovated space, including four new innovative STEM classrooms and a refreshed **Mallory Kountze Planetarium**. We also have four new staff members that we'll introduce below, and we expect to hire more in the coming months.

Thank you for your support these past few years. Every dollar we raise goes toward **creating innovations in STEM education**, and therefore, toward elevating the potential of real people across the Omaha metro area. You're a part of that!

-- Dr. Chris Moore, Director

---

## Meet the Staff



### **Chris Moore, Ph.D., Director**

Dr. Moore is the Director of the STEM TRAIL Center, the Dr. George F. Haddix Community Chair in Physical Science, and Chair of the Physics Department. [Read more...](#)



### **Erin Dahl, Outreach Director**

Erin joined the STEM TRAIL Center from Millard Public Schools, where she served as a

science teacher for 16 years. [Read more...](#)



### **Krista Testin, Afterschool & Planetarium Coordinator**

Krista joined the STEM TRAIL Center in June and has a long history in STEM education. [Read more...](#)



### **Katie Berger, Project Coordinator**

Katie has held a variety of roles in higher education and joined the STEM TRAIL Center in July. [Read more...](#)



## Sandy Bolamperti, Project Assistant

Sandy has served as Project Assistant for UNO's Aim for the Stars summer camps for four years. [Read more...](#)



## Fernandina Gully, Director of Happiness

"Fern" is an 8-month-old tortoise and will grow to be about a foot in length. An introvert by nature, she enjoys eating, sleeping, humid weather, and serving as the STEM TRAIL Center's Director of Happiness.

---

## Events



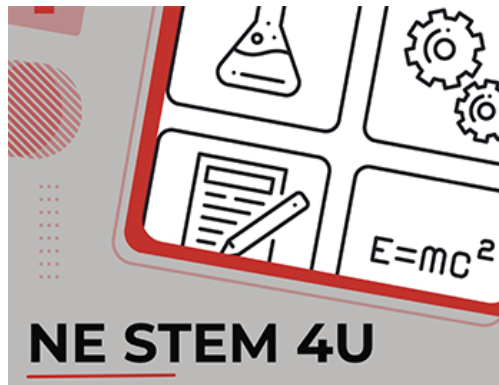
### STEM Leadership Team Meeting

Friday, September 8  
9-11 a.m.

Milo Bail Student Center  
Aksarben Room (2nd Floor)

Stop by anytime from 9-11 a.m. to meet the staff and learn more about STEM TRAIL Center updates. Coffee and bagels will be served.





## STEMinar: Classroom Management & Student Engagement

Friday, September 1  
12-1 p.m.  
Allwine Hall 229

Dr. Victoria Lenfler (Teacher Education) will lead a seminar for S-STEM scholars and NE STEM 4U mentors on classroom management techniques and strategies to keep students engaged.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
STEM TRAIL CENTER

We exist to elevate human potential by creating innovations in formal and informal STEM education.

---

University of Nebraska Omaha, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182, United States, 402.554.2800

[Manage preferences](#)

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 education programs or activities, including admissions and employment. The University prohibits any form of retaliation taken against anyone for reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for otherwise engaging in protected activity. [Read the full statement.](#)