

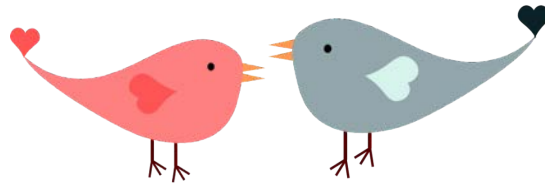
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February Newsletter

2021 | Volume 3 | Issue 7



**Our early Valentine's gift to you:
The STEM TRAIL Center Newsletter!**

Upcoming Events

Teaching Practices Workshop
**Identity, Authority, and Positioning
in STEM Courses**

Facilitator: Dr. Kelly Gomez-Johnson

Friday, April 1
11:00am-12pm (*virtual event*)



RSVP Here



Student Programming Series **Understanding My F.I.T**

Facilitator: LaRon Henderson

This workshop will guide you to explore the current state of purpose, organization, and self-care in your life. We will introduce you to practical strategies for: balancing priorities for yourself & others, organizing your day, easing stress, and living on purpose while improving your overall quality of life.

Wednesday, February 23
5pm- 5:45pm (*virtual event*)

RSVP Here



Family Programming **Crazy About Constellations**

Join us and learn through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) based content by learning about space, constellations, and even creating your own unique constellation!

Thursday, February 24

6pm- 7pm

Virtual event via Zoom, All Supplies Provided

RSVP Here



High School Physical Science Teacher Virtual Camaraderie Hour

Do you teach high school chemistry, physics, and/or physical science? Or are you a pre-service secondary teacher working on an endorsement in science? Join us from 5-6 PM on the second Wednesday of each month for a virtual camaraderie hour.

RSVP Now:

- **March 9**
- **May 11**

News



NE STEM 4U welcomes new officers!

The NE STEM 4U program is excited to welcome its newest undergraduate leadership team, officially taking over the reins of the program in January 2022. The team is composed of five individuals, tasked with overseeing the program

and its operations. Their duties cover a variety of areas, but include: activity development, curriculum planning, managing supplies, communications, and scheduling, among others. We are excited to continue the growth of this program under this new leadership. Read more about our new leaders below!

Roxy Denton

Grade: Sophomore (Junior academically)

Major: Biology with a minor in Chemistry and Medical Humanities.

Fun fact: I am on the UNO Track and Field team as a multi, and I compete in the pentathlon and heptathlon.

Vance Dorsey

Grade: Junior

Major: Biology with Secondary Education Endorsement

Fun fact: I am a certified scuba diver.

Tayber Meyer

Grade: Freshman

Major: Pre-Nursing

Fun fact: My left pupil has a yellow ring around it.

Javier Rodriguez-Flores

Grade: Junior

Major: Cyber Security

Fun fact: I am learning Portuguese.

Brandon Villanueva-Sanchez

Grade: Sophomore

Major: Neuroscience

Fun fact: I *almost* got my black belt in taekwondo at 13 before I got hurt!



Filling Nebraska's Workforce, One Student at a Time

Read the stories below about our people, programs and projects that are building a pipeline of future employees.

Read more
nebraska.edu



\$1.2 million grant will help UNO train future scientists ...

As schools across Nebraska and the country struggle with teacher shortages, the University of Nebraska at Omaha plans to "expand the pipeline of science teachers," thanks in part to a recently awarded federal grant.

Read more
omaha.com



Last chance, applications close February 11

Apply to be a STEM TRAIL Center Fellow for 2022

The STEM Teaching, Research, And Inquiry-based Learning (TRAIL) Center (STC) is looking for three fellows beginning in Fall 2022.

About the Opportunity:

The fellows will be responsible for strategic planning and programming on a proposed topic of teaching innovation in STEM. They will:

- Develop programming based on their strategic vision
- Engage with stakeholders depending on the project requirements

The Fellow role is intended to provide a dedicated leadership opportunity to include strategy, tactics, and operations on a short term (i.e. 2-year) basis.

Fellows would be expected to be involved in multiple meetings per month, including as a central participant in weekly STC staff meetings, and as the leader of biweekly tactical meetings. Stipends are available for up to \$7,500 per year for work completed as a fellow.

Apply by February 11, 2022.

[View or share the flyer](#)

[Apply Now](#)



UNO NOYCE MATH TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Courtney Wattles

Omaha Bryan High School

"The best part about teaching math is seeing students grow from the beginning of the year to the end and even past that."

NOYCEMath Teacher Spotlight

Noyce Math Teachers are former UNO NoyceMath Scholars now serving as secondary mathematics teachers in high needs schools in the Omaha Metropolitan area and across the country. These teachers earned both mathematics and secondary education degrees from UNO and are considered highly qualified not only in their content-area knowledge, but also their vast experiences with STEM community outreach, learning assistantships, and their participation in a network of faculty mentors, Noyce peers and community organizations during their undergraduate experience. All 16 UNO NoyceMath Teacher graduates continue to serve in high needs schools today and we are proud to spotlight their dedication and stories in our Noyce Teacher Spotlight Series.

[See this month's spotlight here!](#)



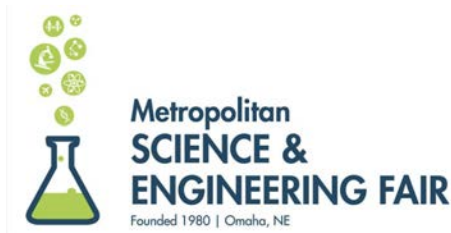
A note from the Omaha STEM Ecosystem

It is already February and it will be summer in no time. As you know, parents are starting to look for summer programming for their students and students are starting to look for internships for the summer. Summer programs and internships are vital educational tools to engage students in STEM learning. Summer camps and classes help students nurture problem solving skills and foster innovation. Internships help students make the connection between exciting STEM careers and the impact they can have on the world. Join us by giving resources to arm children with STEM skills to allow them to feel comfortable in an ever-adapting world.

The recent launch of the STEM Community Platform (SCP) has allowed community partners to come together to ensure access and equity in education for all students. Research has shown that the key influencer for students is often an engagement experience that sparks innovation. The STEM Community Platform speaks to that journey. We invite you to participate as well in that journey, by uploading your programs, resources, and training opportunities for students and teachers to the SCP. With summer quickly approaching, make sure that you get your summer programming and internships posted to the platform so that every student has equal access to STEM resources.

It's easy to upload your information: <https://stemplatform.aiminstitute.org/>

Resources and Opportunities



MSEF has gone virtual for 2022! There is still time to sign up as a judge.

The Forty-Third annual Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair (MSEF) will be held as a 100% virtual event in response to navigating issues related to Covid-19. As a result, there will be an asynchronous online judging round from March 4th to March 12th, 2022 and a live remote video round on March 24th, 2022 from 7:30 am to 12:00 noon. Please consider volunteering as a judge for one or both rounds. We hope you will join us as we continue to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals.

[View the flyer and sign up as a virtual judge](#)



WiSTEM "In the Know" Lunch Conversation

Monday, February 14
12:05 - 12:50

Why We ❤️ STE(A)M and WiSTEM!

Share about your experiences AND hear more about our organization and ways you can get more involved as a member or on our upcoming 2022-2023 Leadership Team.

Nominations for our 2022-2023 board are coming up in April!

Everyone is welcome! Feel free to invite a colleague and bring your lunch.

[Here is the zoom link](#)

Future WiSTEM "In the Know" Dates from 12:05-12:50pm (for more details, see [our website](#) & future digest emails):

- Tuesday, March 8th, online, Reverse Panel on Caregiving- Come ready to participate!
- Monday, April 11th, online, Gender & Leadership Opportunities at UNO with Dr. Jay Irwin and Dr. Kristin Girten



Aim for the Stars - Teachers Needed

Teachers are needed for the 2022 [Aim for the Stars Science and Math summer camp](#). Each camp is a week long (8am-4pm) and teachers will receive \$800 per week.

If you know of someone or are interested in teaching VEX Robotics, Weather, LEGO EV3, possibly Advanced Astronomy, or Powering the Future (Energy Sources), please contact Aim for the Stars Director, Connie O'Brien at unoaimforthestars@unomaha.edu.

Counselors are also needed.

Registration for Aim for the Stars is open! [Register here.](#)

Interested in exploring the STEM TRAIL Center further?

[Visit our website](#)

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

Gifts can also be remitted electronically at the link below.

[Donate](#)



STEM TRAIL Center

Thompson Alumni Center 204

6705 Dodge Street

Omaha, NE 68182

Phone: 402.554.3459

Contact Our Staff



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