



WPAFB Educational Outreach



INSPIRING STUDENTS IN STEM

K-12 STEM ENQUIRER

June 2024

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Join us next month...

New Employee Spotlight

FIRST Rookie Camps



F-16 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On Tuesday, June 25th the Educational Outreach Office participated in the 50th anniversary of the F-16 Fighting Falcon's historic first flight! The private event honored the accomplishments and dedication of all those who supported the aircraft throughout the years.

Guests enjoyed a variety of activities including food trucks, meeting team members who work on and pilot the aircraft, STEM lessons (*presented by the EO*), a private flight demonstration and more.

It was a very special experience for everyone attending. [Click here](#) to read the article published by AFLCMC.



WPAFB Educational Fund Scholarship Recipients

On Thursday, June 20th scholarships were awarded to the following students: Conor Anderson, Evelyn Boller, Noah Boyce, Marissa DeRespinis, Kaitlyn Fields, Vanessa Gerakines, Kyle Heilman, Luke Huntzinger, Madelyn Maryeski, Zachary May, Camille Meachm, Jack Purtimn, and Avery Slinker.

This was the 39th year scholarships were awarded by the Educational Fund to children and grandchildren of currently employed civilian or active-duty military stationed at WPAFB. Recipients were joined by their family for the ceremony and enjoyed refreshments after.

To learn more about the scholarship fund and how to apply, [click here](#) to visit the webpage.



STARBASE Camps

STARBASE Wright-Patt had a very busy 2 weeks supporting WPAFB affiliated families with free STEAM camps for students in grades 2-8! From messy mud painting to building better bubbles, campers enjoyed an activity packed week of STEAM exploration! Read on to find out how much fun students had learning...

Exploring Nature Camp

Campers really got their hands dirty discovering the wonder of seed germination, imitating the busy lives of plant pollinators, and creating feeders to attract birds. Campers explored the wind and weather by flying kites, building wind catchers, and learning how to better protect against the Sun's harsh UV rays. STARBASE Nature Camp was a blast this year!



Amusement Park Engineering Camp

Rising 4th-6th grade campers learned some of the scientific principles behind creating amusement park rides. They participated in daily team engineering challenges, and worked together to complete roller coasters on classroom walls, waterslides, and other amusement park rides and carnival games. While they know how much fun an amusement park can be, they now know a little about the hard work and thought that goes into creating one!



STARBASE Camps *cont'd.*

Robot Coding and Engineering Camp

Our oldest group of students explored the robotics world in their week with us. They learned about hydraulics and robot movement by building Cyborg hands that use gears and hydraulics to move and progressed into how robots use sensors and block codes as commands. They were able to see this in action by creating color-coded paths for Ozobots to follow and learned to block code both the Sphero Bolt and Sphero RVR robots. The highlight of the camp was the creation of floating battle bots to see which team could create and control the best and most creative bot and drive the opponent backwards in the water. The students learned to work with teams and use their interpersonal skills to be successful early robotics engineers.



Exploring How Our Bodies Work Camp

Our second camp for grades 4-6 learned amazing facts about our bodies. Some of our favorite tasks were creating a brain hat, making ice cream in a bag, creating a model spinal cord and playing with Ozobots! We learned all about digestion, how our teeth work, the importance of washing our hands to get rid of germs, where bacteria is found- and that there is good AND bad bacteria. Our students had a blast and made life-long connections!



STARBASE Camps *cont'd.*

Forensics Camp

And finally, our second group of 7th and 8th graders spent the week exploring human anatomy and forensics. They collected evidence on our crime scene that they were able to analyze and discover who the culprit was. While studying the heart, we programmed spheres to follow the path of the circulatory system with the robot acting as a red blood cell. They really enjoyed playing our “mafia” game, each of them getting assigned a role, with a narrator describing a night of mystery. We all had so much fun and learned so much about our bodies!



As you can imagine, the students learned a lot while having fun! We can't wait for our next round of camps coming up in July and August! Stay tuned!

FIRST Update

The FIRST LEGO League Challenge season has officially wrapped up as our last three teams still competing have completed their events. After their stellar performances and the Ohio Championship in March, these teams were selected to compete at international championship level events. Power Pandas, Lego Legion, and Lego Maskers are all Cincinnati based teams who exemplify the FIRST Core Value of Coopertition, competing and collaborating with your competition. They support each other and make each other stronger, and they were all clearly well-prepared for these Championships as they were each recognized with awards (approx. 30% of teams win an award at each event)!

Power Pandas won the Innovation Project Award at the Western Edge Open in California. Lego Legion won the Peer Award at the WPI WAFFLE Open (at Worcester Polytechnic Institute) in Massachusetts). Lego Maskers won the Innovation Project Award at the Florida Sunshine Invitational. We are so proud of these very accomplished teams and their admirable performances!



FIRST Update *cont'd*



LEGACY Rising Apprentices



Lindsay Dowty
Bellbrook High School
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Biomedical Engineering



Parker Brown
Greenview High School
Miami University
Electrical Engineering



Aidan Davis
Discovery Canyon Campus HS
Texas A&M University
Aerospace Engineering



Sage Marine
Discovery Canyon Campus HS
Navy enlistment



Alayna Allport
Legacy Christian Academy
Cedarville University
Molecular Biology



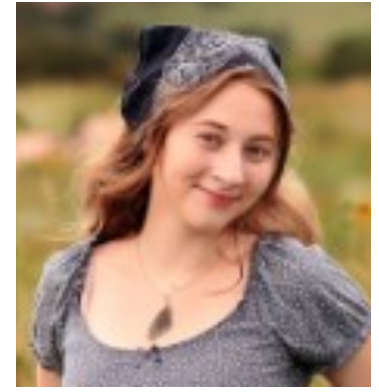
Neel Jones
Chaminade Julianne Catholic HS
University of Dayton
Mechanical Engineering



Ely Bush
Northmont High School
University of Cincinnati
Information Technology &
Computer Science



Katie Cotelleso
Homeschooled & Sinclair
Community College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Mechanical Engineering

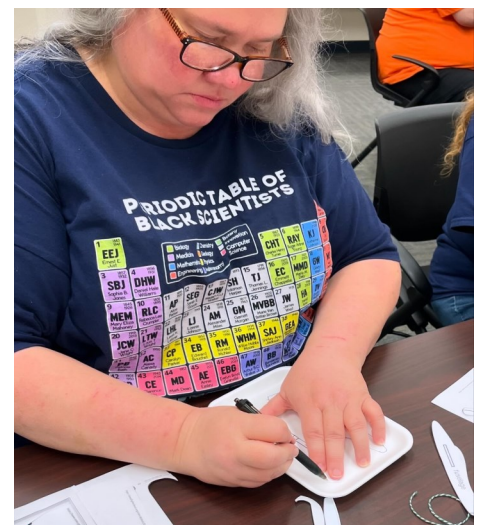
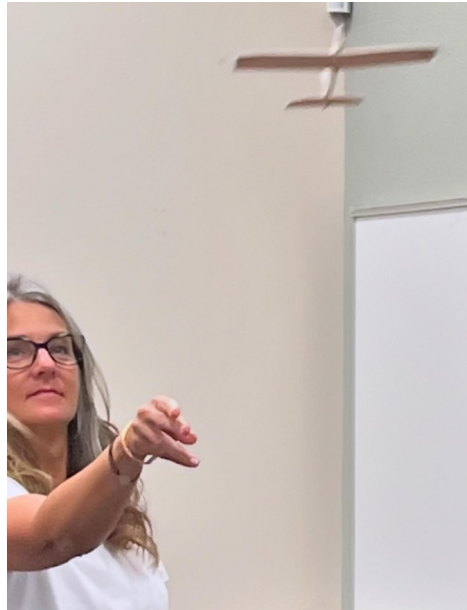


Elizabeth Dierlam
Lewis-Palmer HS
Colorado School of Mines
Major in Chemistry & Minor in
Metallurgical Engineering

WOW! Teacher Workshops

The WOW! program, partnering with SOITA and CET, offered two Workshops this month, focusing on Aviation: Flights and Kites with 5th-8th grade teachers, and Bubbles, Kites, and Flight with K-4th grade teachers. Everyone loves these in-person days and are looking forward to [more free workshops in July](#).

WOW
WIZARDS of WRIGHT



Retirement Celebration



Please join us in celebrating Patrick Hannon's retirement from the National Museum of the United States Air Force! As an Education Specialist at the NMUSAF, Mr. Hannon led and supported many endeavors and had a significant impact on young people from both the local area and across the country. Partnering with the WPAFB Educational Outreach Office, Mr. Hannon made it possible for FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenge events to take place at the Museum over the past few seasons. We appreciate all of Mr. Hannon's support that made these high quality events possible!

Pictured left: Brenda Ronnbaum (EO + FIRST), Pat Hannon (NMUSAF), and Rich Storrick (FIRST)



NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Employee Spotlight

Name: Amanda Wheeler (contractor)

Title: Education Specialist

Program: Educational Outreach Office program support.

Years with the EO office: 1 month - I also previously worked for STARBASE as an Instructor.



What are you most excited about in your new role? Getting to work with the different programs that are offered by the EO. I will be creating high school STEM lessons as well as performing various tasks that are needed to assist the Program Managers. I also look forward to creating social media content to promote what we can offer local teachers and students, and create excitement around STEM programs.

What is your favorite aspect of working with students in STEM? I enjoy seeing the thought process that goes into solving the challenges presented to students through STEM lessons. It is very interesting to me to see many different solutions to the same problem. I also love seeing the high levels of engagement and enjoyment that the students have with the lessons and programs we offer.

What goal do you have as you settle in to your new role? To make interesting, engaging lessons that high school teachers can use in their classrooms, and to make sure that I provide help and support wherever needed in the EO office.

If you had one superpower, what would it be and why? I would want to be able to teleport. I love to travel, but I don't love how long it takes to get places. Being able to instantly transport there and back would save so much time and effort!

