

ABC CREATE Quarterly

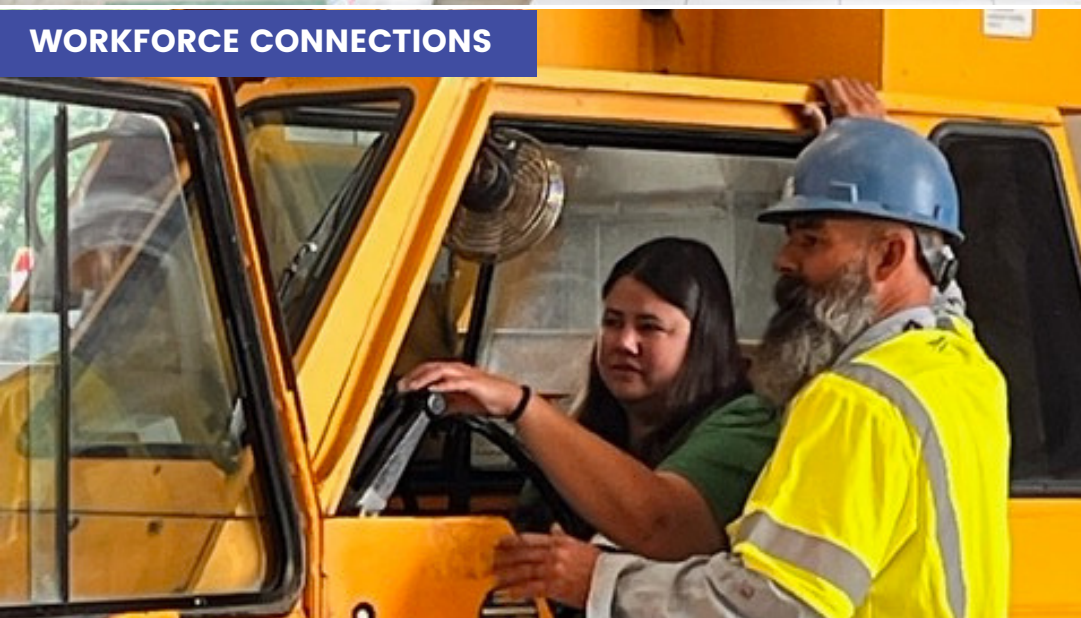


Vol .03
September 2023

SUMMER STEAM CAMP



WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS



PROJECT-BASED LEARNING



ABC CREATE L.E.A.D.S.

LEVERAGING EDUCATION
to ACCELERATE DIVERSITY
and SUCCESS

SUMMER LEARNING

PARTNERS: SCHOOLS,
BUSINESS, COMMUNITY

COMMUNITIES + FAMILIES

EXTENDING IMPACT

A LOOK INSIDE L.E.A.D.S.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

FUTURE READINESS CONFERENCE

Summer Learning

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"As always, I loved these sessions with ABC CREATE. I always sign up for these because I know I will learn something each day... many somethings! Plus, they are just enjoyable to attend."

*– Jerry Clark
Allegheny Valley*

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TEACHERS' SUMMER STEAM RETREAT

What a fantastic summer of learning! Like in years past, one highlight was the Summer STEAM Retreat, a three-day series that brought teachers together to connect, learn, and explore technology integration in the classroom.

With the emergence of AI as an increasingly accessible and influential technology, the first day was dedicated to learning more about this innovation. Teachers explored AI's potential for positive and negative social impact and analyzed ChatGPT-generated writing samples. One attendee had this takeaway to share: "AI is an incredibly broad topic that can be approached in ways that are insightful and useful at any grade level, whether it helps us actually understand AI or as a vector for secondary topics."

Data literacy and visualization was another topic of focus, and the technology playground gave teachers a chance to explore CAD, Canva, Gigapan, and other tools and resources. Teachers came away with new ideas for how to integrate technology in their classrooms for future-ready learning. "I will be passing on a number of the resources to co-workers," said Armstrong educator Karen Rupp.

Many thanks to all who spent these summer days with us!

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"I am going to introduce the Hour of Engineering to my fellow teachers. I am also adding more tools that I learned about from these three days to our Makerspace resource list with the intention of introducing them to the staff and students."

*– Jennifer Kosier
Highlands School District*

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Visit our website for an [overview of our Summer STEAM Retreat](#) presentations and contact info for our guest presenters who are interested in supporting ABC CREATE and school-based learning. They'd be happy to hear from you!



EDUCATOR IN THE WORKFORCE TRAINING

This summer, more than 30 educators from 12 different school districts took advantage of the opportunity to learn about the region's key industries and employers through an immersive experience known as Educator in the Workforce (EIW) training.

Six organizations invited educators to their facilities to showcase relevant careers. The EIW program was created to expand K-12 educators' awareness of the types of employment opportunities available to students upon graduation. Participants learned what skills employers are seeking and how the content they teach in the classroom is directly applicable to jobs across industries, from engineering to healthcare.

Each session had great attendance with between 11-22 participants. "I already have a bulletin board brewing in my mind with the title, '*Your future boss wants you to be...*' with all of the soft skills and qualities that each place shared," said Renae Gable, a Franklin Regional educator. "I plan to bring these places and jobs up in conversation as the math lessons deem appropriate."

Jessica Queck of Freeport, said "I was blown away by the EIW experiences! I didn't know what to expect going in, but I found each visit so interesting. It was great to learn about all of the subsets of jobs available within each field/company."



Carnegie Mellon University
Entertainment Technology Center



ABC CREATE L.E.A.D.S. SCHOOLS, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY



PROJECT-BASED LEARNING TRAINING

Project-based learning (PBL) is one of the most effective instructional strategies to make learning relevant and engaging for students. We are grateful to the Consortium for Public Education (CPE) for leading nearly 30 local teachers through a two-day PBL training in which participants left equipped with practical implementation strategies.

PBL engages students by clearly connecting learning to real world problems and applications, as well as through a higher degree of student ownership of the learning experience and outcomes.

Those who attended the training learned new skills, and had time (with the support of their peers and the session facilitators) to begin planning a project of their own for the new school year. Session exit tickets showed that the training increased teachers' confidence in their ability to integrate PBL into their teaching this year.

Among the takeaways, one educator shared her realization that it's okay to "start small." She said, "PBL doesn't have to be a huge project." Another participant reflected that PBL is a "fantastic way to make learning relevant, and empower the students to own their learning!"



“I loved this training! It makes me excited to go back to the classroom and incorporate PBL.”

“I’m looking forward to starting this project next school year!”

COMMUNITIES + FAMILIES

“I really like what you’re doing in the community. You’re working so that we can thrive.”

– Parent



SUMMER STEAM CAMPS

With our partners, ABC CREATE is working to create and model community-based events to engage families and community members along with school-aged learners in hands-on computer science, STEAM, and future-ready activities.

Learners across our region belong in a community that embraces CS/STEAM skills. Guided by this vision, ABC CREATE was thrilled to collaborate with Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and Books Bridge Hope this summer to engage more than 20 elementary students from the New-Kensington area in hands-on learning as part a STEAM Camp.

The camp demonstrated what is possible with the collaboration and expertise that exists across ABC CREATE. Eight practicing teachers, one retired teacher, and two pre-service educators stepped in to lead activities. It was wonderful to see these teachers from five different districts come together and lend their talents with such positive energy.

The camp’s success showcases what is possible when you show up with a commitment to collaboration. Colleen Smith, Penn State New Kensington STEAM Outreach Coordinator, said, “We learned that the community is committed, and we have aligned goals. No one has to figure it all out on their own. We learned from our community partners, and hopefully they learned from us.”

IN THE NEWS

STEAM camp kicks off for children at New Kensington church

TRIBUNE-REVIEW | Tuesday, July 18, 2023 5:00 a.m.



LOUIS B. RUEDINGER | TRIBUNE-REVIEW



4 DAYS



3 COMMUNITY PARTNERS



20 KIDS

ABC CREATE L.E.A.D.S. EXTENDING IMPACT



HAPPENING ACROSS THE REGION & BEYOND

Photo Credit: Digital Foundry

It wasn't just ABC CREATE that was busy facilitating rich STEAM learning this summer. Many partner organizations offered experiences for students and teachers. It truly takes a connected future-ready ecosystem, and we can say this exists here in the Alle-Kiski area.

Infosys Foundation's Pathfinders Summer Institute

Interviewed live as part of the CodeJoy Make-a-thon for public school teachers across the US, CodeJoy, ARIN IU28, and ABC CREATE shared about the CS/coding model we've deployed through our L.E.A.D.S. partnership that is successfully engaging and inspiring tech-hesitant elementary educators.

Digital Foundry at New Kensington

Previous collaborations with ABC CREATE led the Digital Foundry to hire two local educators to design, enhance, and deliver summer and workforce curricula for K- Adult learners. Among the programming highlights:

- BELONG in STEM Camp 2023 was held in early August;
- 100 Black Men of Western PA expanded to a 6-week, hands-on technology program for minority youth ages 14-18; and
- Curricular and pedagogical contributions strengthened Manufacturing 365 for young adults ages 18-25 and upcoming workforce trainings.



Photo Credit: Digital Foundry

ARIN IU28

Chief Science Officers (CSO) aims to create a pipeline of diverse STEM leaders, foster communication and collaboration among CSOs, enrich school STEM culture and career awareness, and amplify student voice in STEM conversations in the community. This summer, CSO kicked off for 6th-12th grade students with a Leadership Training Institute (LTI) held at Freeport Area Middle School.

ABC CREATE L.E.A.D.S.

A LOOK INSIDE L.E.A.D.S.



LEARNING HAPPENS ANYTIME, EVERYWHERE

While summer brings happiness in the form of vacations, pool days, festivals, and more, it's also the perfect time for learning. Learning happens anytime, everywhere.

What a busy and incredible summer we had! Students attended STEAM camps where they got to play with new technologies and learn new concepts. Parents and families joined too, trying new things alongside their children. Teachers stepped into opportunities to learn, connect, and construct plans for their classrooms. Project leaders attended conferences to share their expertise and collect new ideas from partners outside the region. Every spark created a moment of joy, and every spark will lead to something greater this school year.

Learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day, school week, or school year. One of the most rewarding things about ABC CREATE is that, together, we are building a rich STEAM ecosystem with school, community, and industry partners that continues to deepen regional expertise and expand opportunities for rich future-ready learning not only in schools across our 14 districts, but beyond as well. We are a community of learners, of all ages, and together we keep growing.

TIPS FOR BUILDING A LEARNING COMMUNITY



STAY CURIOUS

We're never too old to learn. Stay curious. Pause to ask questions about the world, our region, and our future. Play, experiment, explore, and discover. We are *all* learners.

COLLABORATE

We have so much to learn from one another. Cultivate partnerships in the community. Collaborate on projects. Pursue collective impact over individual accolades. The stronger the ecosystem, the greater the learning.

SHIFT THE PARADIGM

We typically think of schools as being "the place" for learning—but learning happens anytime, everywhere. Challenge yourself and students to notice and make the most of their learning outside of school. Look for new opportunities in your community.

ABC CREATE

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

ELEMENTARY CS/STEAM

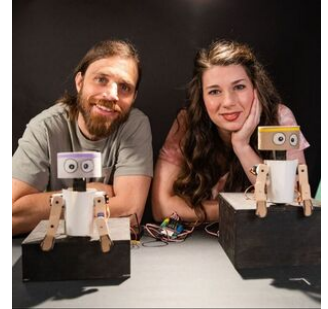
CodeJoy Virtual Student Sessions

Sessions begin late November 2023

Join Kelsey and Matt the Robot from CodeJoy for this interactive virtual field trip session for students!

- Ideal for 3rd-8th grade; beginner to intermediate coders
- 30-45 minutes, scheduled at YOUR convenience
- Up to 400 participants with computers or Chromebooks, **no robots required**
- *More info about registration will be shared this fall*

LEARN MORE



PARTNERS: SCHOOL, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY

Education Vanguard: Future Readiness Conference 2023

Thursday, October 12 - Saturday, October, 14

Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Twp.

Learn more about the conference on Page 9 (below)

REGISTER



ABC CREATE LEADS + Consortium for Public Education

Wednesday, November 15 - 8:30am - 2:30pm

Penn State New Kensington

Participating educators will receive info via email soon.

Continuing PD for 2022-23 ABC CREATE LEADS participants focusing on implementing project-based learning, and/or deepening career-readiness opportunities in your classrooms or schools.

Idea Challenge: Young Innovator's Edition

Friday, September 29: Deadline to express interest

Thursday, October 26: Challenge Kick Off

LEARN MORE +
SUBMIT INTEREST

ABC CREATE is pleased to connect our districts to this free opportunity with PSNK's Corner Launchbox and BUILD.org for high school students and their teachers to experience and develop entrepreneurial mindsets along with problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills.

Participation is limited. Questions? Email Joanna Sutton at jqs7188@psu.edu.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PARTNERS: SCHOOL, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY

FREE BirdBrain Teacher Professional Development

Learn the nuts and bolts of robotics and coding through hands-on experiences and how to integrate robotics into any subject or grade level.

LEARN MORE +
REGISTER



Cultural Connections with Hummingbird

Cohort 1: October 14 – December 4

Cohort 2: December 9 – February 5

Python with Finch Robot

Cohort 1: October 7 – November 18

Cohort 2: December 2 – January 20

COMMUNITIES + FAMILIES

Willie Thrower “1ST SNAP” 70th Anniversary Celebration

Activities on October 12, 14, 15, 18, 2023

Downtown New Kensington

LEARN MORE



- In celebration of New Kensington's Hometown Hero, Willie Thrower, the modern NFL's first Black Quarterback
- Activities range from a parade, to a cook-out, to skills and drills camps, to a live broadcast
- On October 12, from 1 - 3 PM, visit the Childrens' Tables for STEAM Activities

EXTENDING IMPACT

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit's STEM Network

September 28 and December 15, 2023

February 6 and May 14, 2024

LEARN MORE



- WIU7 will host a series of full-day opportunities for educators in the region to network, learn, and collaborate.
- Contact Lauren Cunningham at lcunningham@wiu7.org with any questions related to this network.



Building the Education of the Future Together
EDUCATION VANGUARD



Help shape the future of education!

Future Readiness Conference

October 12, 13, and 14, 2023

Regional Learning Alliance

850 Cranberry Woods Dr, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

If you're an **educator** or an **industry professional** who's eager to explore cutting-edge technology and gain insights into or share its applications, this conference is for you!



**Register
for free
today!**

Individuals can attend the event at **NO COST** thanks to the project being part of the SWPA New Economy Collaborative funded by a Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant.

Meet Some of Our Speakers:



Illah R. Nourbakhsh
Carnegie Mellon University
AI & Humanities



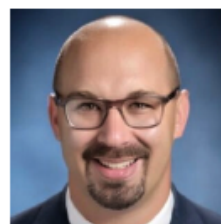
E. Michele Ramsey
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Technology
Development and
Deployment



Karen Alexander
XRconnectED
XR in Industry
and Education



Justin Aglio
Penn State Outreach
Future Readiness in
K-12 Education



Colleen Smith
Penn State New Kensington
K-12 STEAM
Education



Learn More Here



Shape the Course

Mark your calendar and secure your spot today.



Partner

Establish connections with educators and industry professionals.



Sponsor

Become a sponsor or share as a vendor.

📞 724-334-6794

✉ Dr. Shirley Campbell - uuc1@psu.edu

🌐 newkensington.psu.edu/future-readiness-conference

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and SUCCESS

