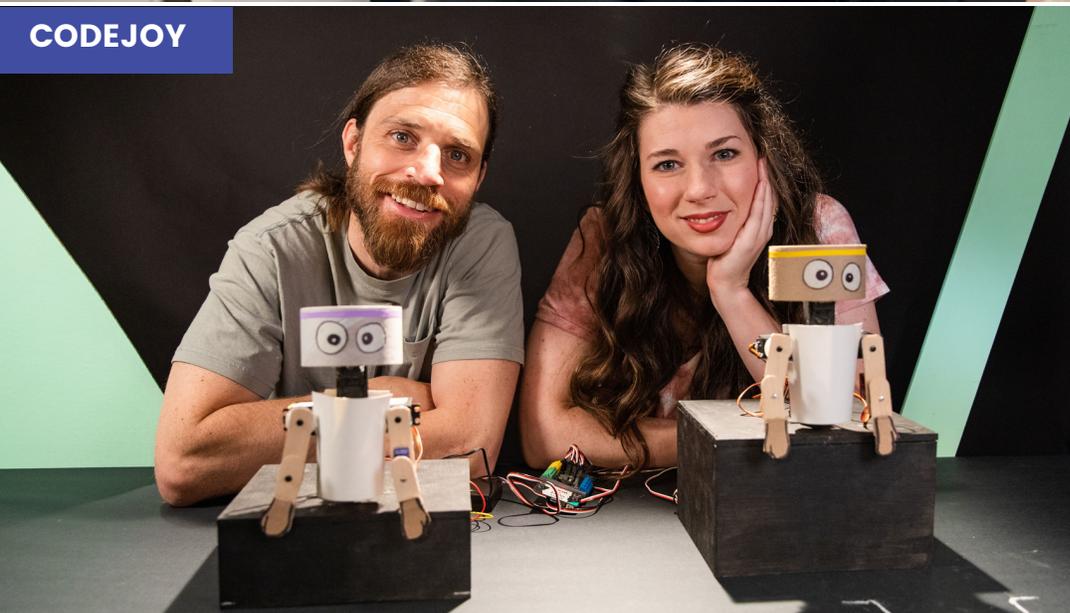


BOTLUCK



CODEJOY



FALL CONVENING



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

LEVERAGING EDUCATION
to ACCELERATE DIVERSITY
and SUCCESS

ELEMENTARY CS/STEAM

PARTNERS: SCHOOLS,
BUSINESS, COMMUNITY

COMMUNITIES AND
FAMILIES

EXTENDING IMPACT

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

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Elementary CS/STEAM

STUDENT SESSIONS



We have been blown away by your enthusiastic participation in CodeJoy’s student sessions this fall and winter. Nearly 250 teachers from across 19 school districts in 5 counties participated, bringing more than 4,300 students to the virtual sessions with Kelsey and Matt!



ALLEGHENY
ARMSTRONG
BUTLER
INDIANA
WESTMORELAND



2
PARTNERS

5
COUNTIES

19
DISTRICTS

250
TEACHERS

4300
STUDENTS

During these sessions, students watched as their code controlled robots in the CodeJoy studio in real time! This opportunity was free and open to all students in grades 3-7 across ABC CREATE and ARIN IU 28 school districts.

“*My students were able to participate in CodeJoy’s Robot Rovers program virtually last week and are extremely excited to incorporate these robots into our science classroom later this school year!*”

– Educator Emily Risinger,
Marion Center School District

“*It was a fantastic event. All of the students were so engaged. I love how the program tied in literature with coding. The chat feature was great, too. Thank you so much for making this possible for our students.*”

– Educator Carly Hruska,
River Valley School District

Elementary CS/STEAM

TEACHER SESSIONS



Best PD this year! I love creating and collaborating with @KelseyConnects & @mgchilbert @CodeJoyEdu! @birdbraintech @abc_create @remakelearning @PADeptofEd #FullSTEAMahead #Robotics #MakeltReal

David Sheeran
@ElementaryGuy



2 PARTNERS



106 TEACHERS REGISTERED



3 DIFFERENT ROBOTS

Building on the success of the student sessions, we have also seen great engagement in CodeJoy’s teacher professional development sessions. A series of virtual, hands-on sessions introducing teachers to the Hummingbird Robotics Kit, the BBC Micro:bit, and the Finch Robot wrap up this month.

“Another amazing training tonight by CodeJoy. I love when I leave a training and cannot wait to see my 5th graders to show them the new tips I learned for the Hummingbird robot! Grateful for the funding that made these trainings possible!”

– Educator Jessica Papcunik,
Fox Chapel School District

“These training sessions have truly ignited me as a teacher! I can’t begin to tell you how fearful I was attending the first session because this is not exactly ‘my cup of tea.’ Now, my laundry room at home is filled with robotics!!!!”

– Educator Kelly Hodges,
Kiski Area School District

While the CodeJoy series of professional development sessions concludes in March, there are more opportunities to learn and tinker with robots. All teachers in ABC CREATE and ARIN IU 28 school districts are invited to attend an upcoming Botluck! More details on page 8.

PARTNERS

SCHOOL-BUSINESS-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TRAINING



We know educators are always looking for ways to partner with and learn more about the regional workforce so that they can connect learning experiences to the real world.

IN THE WORKS



Keep a look out for more professional development focused on partnerships between local schools, businesses, and community members.



CONVENER



28 BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS



17 SCHOOL PROFESSIONALS

ABC CREATE is working with the Consortium for Public Education (CPE) to convene and engage stakeholders in professional development explicitly designed to address these partnerships.

Our first event was held in December 2022. In total, 45 individuals—17 school district representatives and 28 business and community representatives—came together for a School-Business-Community Partnerships Training. While lots of implementation questions remain, the day was an excellent start. Participants most valued the connections they made and having the space to begin to focus on collaboration.

- **Educator in the Workforce Training** will immerse educators in workplaces to learn about the region's key industries and employers.
- **Project-Based Learning Training** will equip teachers with practical instructional strategies for implementing PBL.

More details on page 8.

COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES



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

LEARN MORE



SPREAD THE WORD

Remake Learning Days
May 4-23
Southwestern PA

Students, families, and educators are invited to more than 100 STEAM learning events!

We are excited to learn from and highlight districts as they host STEAM outreach events. In December 2022, Stewart Elementary School educators hosted Burrell School District's first Holiday STEAM Night. It was a big success! From this model we are learning a few things about how to run an effective family event:

- **Make it fun!** Use a theme to your advantage. Design engaging and accessible activities. Create a STEAM passport that participants fill up as they go, and boost engagement by offering a small prize.
- **Use classroom space to your benefit.** Spread out and dedicate each room to one activity with a clear focus, technology, and team.
- **Recruit volunteers.** Educators and community partners can lead activities, while middle and high school students can help.
- **Tie it back to the learning.** Have a clear parent message about what the kids are learning through the activity, whether it be computational thinking, design, or something else.

Looking forward to more of these family and community events soon!
More about upcoming events on page 9.

EXTENDING IMPACT



Educators in this collaborative are truly STEAM innovators and leaders! While we continue to *deepen* impact across our 14 member districts, we also have an opportunity to *extend* impact across the region, state, and even nation.

As a first and exciting step, seven districts supported by ARIN IU 28 but not in the ABC CREATE collaborative now have access to CS/STEAM trainings. This has been made possible by the 2022 PAsmart Advancing Grant that funds L.E.A.D.S.

Looking solely at CodeJoy virtual student sessions:

- 100% of ARIN's 11 districts participated in the virtual student interactive programming sessions with CodeJoy.
- Nearly 30% of the 4,329 students and 241 teachers who experienced robotics and coding in their classrooms through the CodeJoy student sessions were from Indiana County schools.

This STEAM learning opportunity was entirely new for educators in the seven new districts not affiliated with ABC CREATE. The level of engagement shows educators are hungry for this learning!

STEAM AND FUTURE-READY LEARNING FOR ALL



As we look to extend impact, we are particularly committed to reaching schools that serve high percentages of low-income students and students of color.

ABC CREATE has an opportunity to work with 10 additional schools in 2023 - 2024.

Know a nearby district that might want to get involved in our collaborative?

Connect with Colleen Smith (cms64@psu.edu).

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

GROWING
TEACHER
CONFIDENCE

Learning something new can be scary, and we know many teachers may feel intimidated or hesitant at first.

One of ABC CREATE's goals is to create opportunities for teachers to learn and try out technologies in a supportive and safe environment. In the nine years since ABC CREATE was founded, we've seen countless educators grow in their confidence and enthusiasm for STEAM integration, and it all starts with getting some hands-on practice.

With this in mind, we hosted our first Botluck, a robot potluck, earlier this year. The teachers who attended all walked away with increased confidence and readiness to use robots in their classroom. One teacher came with an idea he wasn't sure exactly how to implement, and left with a plan for class the next week. Two others showed up with tentative curiosity, and quickly were hooked enough to sign up for upcoming professional development.

Confidence begins with a willingness to "dip your toes," and we're excited to see such growing interest!

LEARNING TO PASS ON: TIPS FOR ENGAGING NOVICE TEACHERS



NAME THE DISCOMFORT.

You might say, "I sense you're unsure about this and maybe even a little fearful." Get them talking, and listen to understand any hesitancy.

SHARE YOUR STORY.

Recount your first experience with robots or coding. Let others know what you were feeling and how you started.

BRING A FRIEND.

Encourage teachers to attend free professional development including Botlucks.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE STUFF!

What's there to lose? Resources are available to check out from the ABC CREATE lending library.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

ELEMENTARY CS/STEAM

Botlucks: Robot Potlucks

Wednesday, March 22, 4:15 - 6:15 PM @ Penn State New Kensington

Thursday, March 30, 4:15 - 6:15 PM @ ARIN IU

Tuesday, April 4, 4:15 - 6:15 PM @ ARIN IU

- Bring a robot, a question, an idea, or just yourself!
- Free, 2-hour, in person professional development
- Novice and seasoned educators welcome - any subject, any grade level
- All [ABC CREATE](#) and [ARIN IU 28](#) teacher attendees will receive a \$40/hour stipend

REGISTER



SCHOOL, BUSINESS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Fanuc Professional Development Workshop

SAVE the DATE: To be held at the Digital Foundry @ New Kensington

Tuesday, May 2 - Full day

Project-Based Learning Training

Wednesday, June 14 from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Wednesday, June 21 from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

@ Penn State New Kensington

- Two day training led by the Consortium for Public Education (CPE)
- Gain an understanding of PBL, build skills, and begin planning a project of your own
- All [ABC CREATE partner district](#) teacher attendees will receive a \$40/hour stipend

REGISTER



Educator in the Workforce

Range of dates (mid- late June) and locations to choose

- One hour kick-off webinar followed by a range of industry site visits
- All [ABC CREATE partner district](#) teacher attendees will receive a \$40/hour stipend

REGISTER



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

Burrell Community Connections

Thursday, April 13, 5:00 - 8:00 PM @ Huston Middle School

- Burrell students, families, and community members are invited to learn about and network with local businesses, participate in STEAM activities, enjoy food trucks, see a showcase of student achievements, and connect with the community!
- Businesses must register [here](#).

New Ken-Arnold's Roy A. Hunt Elementary Family STEAM Night

Thursday, May 18, 6:00 - 8:00 PM @ Roy A. Hunt Elementary School

- Open to 5th and 6th grade Roy A. Hunt students and their families
- ABC CREATE educators, community and business partners will guide learners through STEAM stations

EXTENDING IMPACT

Pennsylvania STEM Statewide Ecosystem (PSSE) Webinar *Connecting and Engaging Ecosystems Series: Supporting Teachers in Transforming Learning Environments with ABC CREATE and Lancaster County STEM Alliance*

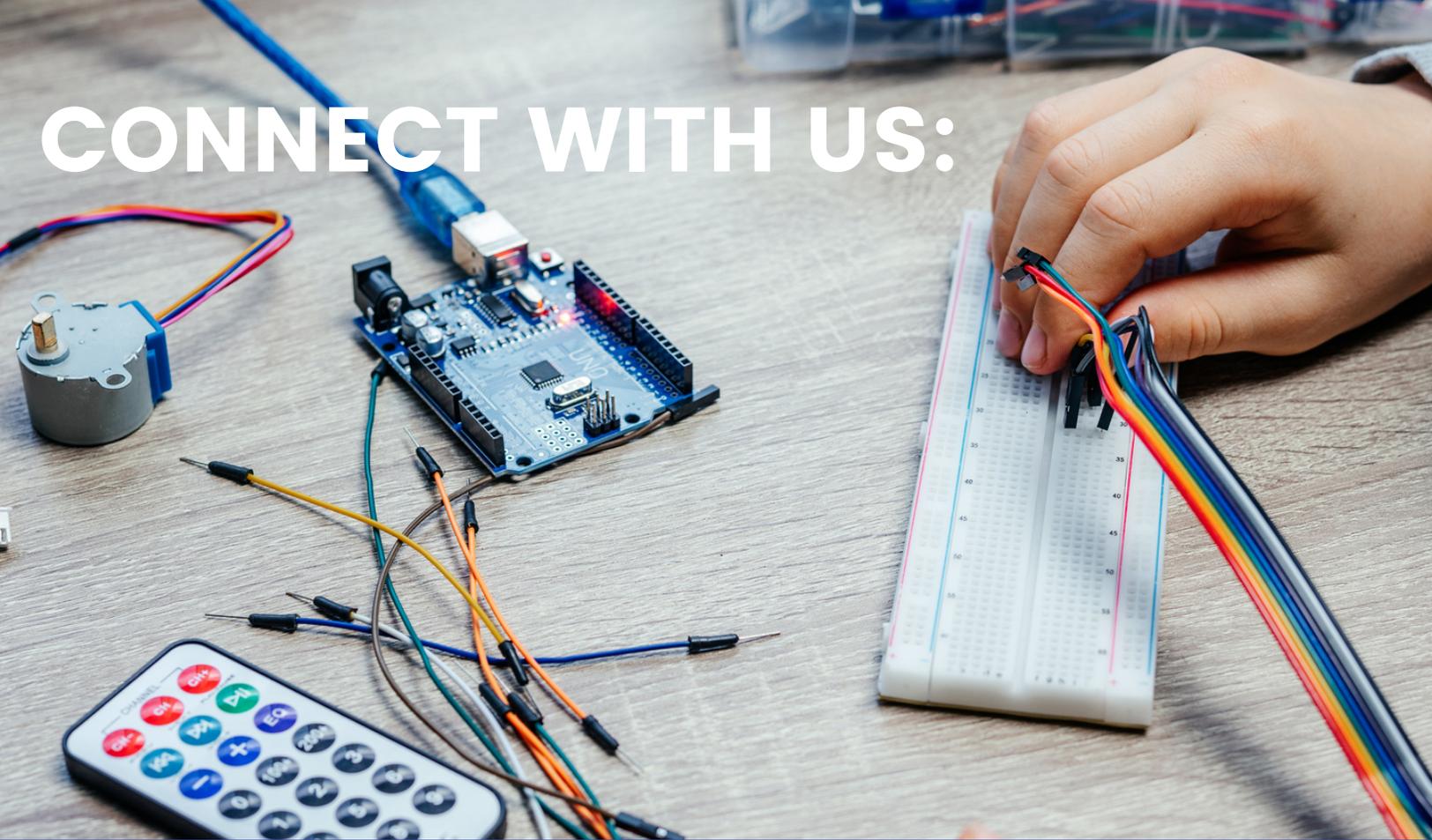
Thursday, March 23, 8:30 - 9:30 AM

- The PSSE is a collection of STEM networks across the state, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, that connect as a community of practice
- ABC CREATE will share how we are inspiring tech-hesitant elementary educators with our CS/STEAM/robotics professional development model
- Lancaster County STEM Alliance will showcase their Adopt a Middle School and Teachers as Temporary Workers programs, as part of a business-education strategy

REGISTER



CONNECT WITH US:



ABC CREATE | abccreate.org
Penn State New Kensington
3550 7th Street Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

Colleen Smith
STE(A)M Outreach Coordinator
724-334-6138
cms64@psu.edu

ABC CREATE

L.E.A.D.S.

LEVERAGING EDUCATION
to ACCELERATE DIVERSITY
and SUCCESS

