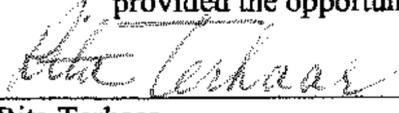


**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
AND
FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – STATESIDE REGION
Implementation of the voluntary STEM Partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers
(USACE):
Memorandum of Understanding**

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and the Federal Education Association-Stateside Region (FEA-SR), hereafter referred to as the "parties", hereby agree to the following guidelines concerning the implementation of the voluntary STEM Partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):

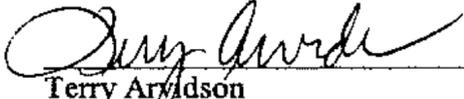
1. Each school administrator at the identified USACE STEM Partnership location will disseminate a solicitation for volunteers from Grade 7 Science teachers. A copy of the announcement will be provided to the local president.
2. The FEA Director for DDESS will be provided a list detailing the district and school of those bargaining unit members who volunteer to participate in the STEM partnership.
3. Already prepared planning guides that incorporate learning objectives, essential understandings, guiding questions, web links, STEM connections and the core concepts to be covered will be provided to the participating Science teachers and their USACE counterpart. Use of the provided planning guides for proposed classroom lessons and activities is optional.
4. Participating teachers will work in collaboration with USACE practicing experts to make decisions about what will be used to teach the students while participating in the partnership program. USACE may be providing materials for teachers that would support the objectives anchored to the STEM focused lessons.
5. Participating teachers who opt to incorporate technology and/or specialized equipment (e.g., cameras, seismometers, pressure sensors, radars and/or satellites) into the lessons must request prior approval of the school administrator.
6. Participating teachers may use any non-instructional time during the duty day to collaborate on projects with the USACE STEM professional. Participating teachers may request through their administrator to leave the building during non-instructional time to pursue activities to support the program. DoDEA volunteers are neither required nor expected to work outside the duty day.
7. DODEA Science teaching standards will apply to this partnership program.
8. Participation in the USACE STEM Partnership will not adversely impact the bargaining members' performance appraisal.
9. Bargaining unit members who volunteer to participate in the STEM partnership may end their participation in the STEM partnership program by notifying their administrator they no longer desire to participate. Participation will end at the conclusion of the student project or at the conclusion of the marking period, whichever occurs first.
10. In the event the Agency, at any level, assigns or directs new duties or tasks in conjunction with the pilot, the Association will be notified and provided the opportunity to request bargaining.
11. Management retains the right to unilaterally discontinue the USACE STEM Partnership. In the event changes are made to the USACE STEM Partnership plan, the FEA Director for DDESS will be notified and provided the opportunity to request bargaining at the National level.



Rita Terhaar
Acting Director, Human Resources DoDEA

3-6-14

Date



Terry Arvidson
FEA Director for DDESS

3/6/2014

Date

Information Paper
STEM Partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers

EDUCATIONAL ISSUE/SUBJECT: NEW STEM PARTNERSHIP

BACKGROUND

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) form the basis of the Nation's current and next generation workforce. Jobs in STEM fields are the fastest-growing employment sectors; yet, the level of interest of American students in technical disciplines continues to remain comparatively low. Engineering accounts for 4 percent of U.S. bachelor's degrees, compared with about 33 percent in China and 19 percent in the rest of Asia (National Science Board, 2012). More importantly, with the demographic composition of the nation changing, diverse backgrounds and experiences are needed to bring inherently different outlooks and ways of thinking, which are key to innovation in business and national security. Crucial segments of the U.S. population are underrepresented in the STEM (and the nation's) technical workforce. Women now represent the majority of the U.S. postsecondary population and account for 27 percent of the U.S. technical workforce. Likewise, underrepresented minorities, make up 24 percent of the U.S. population, but only comprise of about 10 percent of the U.S. STEM workforce (NSB, 2012).

CURRENT STATUS

In order to increase student interest in STEM, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) have established a partnership. This partnership will leverage the strengths of both organizations to advance (STEM) education in communities where DoDEA schools and USACE activities are co-located.

The overall program goals are to 1) Connect and leverage USACE STEM professionals to establish sustainable long-term STEM partnerships in communities where DoDEA and USACE activities are co-located 2) Increase student awareness and interest in STEM activities, projects, and careers, and 3) Raise awareness of the USACE STEM priorities in the local communities in which both USACE and DoDEA serve. To achieve these objectives the USACE STEM professionals engineers, biologists, physicists, architects, hydrologists, and technologist—will have the opportunity to work with students and teachers on a weekly basis, both in person and virtually. These efforts will culminate in a competition and an awards ceremony which will be held annually in conjunction with National Engineers Week (which is traditionally the week in February that coincides with George Washington's actual birthday).

In order to measure the success of the program, several tools will be used. USACE and DoDEA will gather data by having the educators and engineers complete an evaluation at the end of the program to provide feedback about the experience.

IMPLEMENTATION

The current plan is for the STEM professionals to volunteer in a grade 7 science classroom. All materials and resources will be provided .

Specifics about how teachers can volunteer to partner with a STEM professional are forthcoming.

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