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education



Javier Aguilar

Technology & Computer Science Teacher
East Fort Worth Montessori Academy, Fort Worth, TX



This is Javier Aguilar's fifth year as a technology and computer science teacher in Fort Worth, Texas. His goal is to make positive changes in his students' educational journey, by better equipping them for the future. He teaches computer basics and fundamentals, Microsoft applications, principles of coding with Code.org tutorials, Scratch, Processing language, CS First Google, and Robotics. Javier leads afterschool coding clubs, which include enrichment robotics, LEGO® Education WeDo, and LEGO® MINDSTORMS® NXT for his students. Additionally, he teaches free computer classes to parents and the community in Spanish and English. One of his greatest accomplishments as a teacher is getting girls interested in learning more about computer science, STEM, Robotics, MinecraftEdu and coding. As a father of two girls, Javier would like to empower more girls and minorities to join technology fields.



Tomika Altman-Lewis

5th Grade LEAP Teacher
Seawell Elementary School, Chapel Hill, NC



Tomika Altman-Lewis is a 14-year veteran educator that has taught all grade-levels (K-12) in a variety of disciplines from Family and Consumer Sciences to Gifted Education. She is a recipient of numerous grants, awards, and fellowships. She advocates for STEM and loves sharing best practices and innovative ideas with others.



Sean Arnold

STEM Coach
District 75 Citywide Programs, New York, NY



Sean is a special educator and STEM coach who has taught in New York City's District 75 citywide special needs program since 2005. He is committed to reaching all students through innovative technology and practices. He shares his experience of making learning accessible, inventive, and playful to bring change to education. He has helped lead the District 75 LEGO® League for the last 2 years and has used LEGO® Education and robotics tools for STEM instruction for many more. He received the 2017 NYCDOE Excellence in Schools Technology Award and 2018 ISTE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention, as well as recognition as an Apple Distinguished Educator, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert, Google Certified Trainer, and many others. You can view some of his shared efforts on BravelntheAttempt.com.



Nichole Aryanpur
Instructor & PLC Lead
Pioneer Heritage Middle School, Frisco, TX



Nichole Aryanpur began teaching as a Math/ESL instructor before becoming an Integrated Language Arts Teacher and a Theatre Director. When the robotics teacher retired, she was hesitant to take the position, but has never looked back. She truly feels she has found her place and takes pride in the accomplishments she has made as a Robotics Leader in her district. Her passion has grown her robotics program on campus from two classes to five over the past five years (and increased the number of females in class by 17%) as well as allowed her to be the first in her district to create a Robotics II class. She has been asked to present (along with her technology administrator) at two seminars this year about the growth of her program.



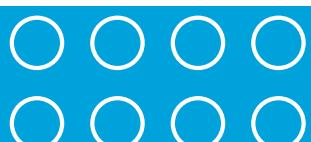
Jill Badalamenti
Technology Specialist
Reed School, Ofallon, MO



Jill Badalamenti is a passionate leader and educator who believes in pushing people beyond what they think they can achieve into what they have achieved. She is always looking for what works best with kids and adults. She is committed to bringing the community and school together to build one community centered around the students. All of her students learn differently and she believes that we should take inventory of the way they learn best and teach to their strengths. Jill was awarded Teacher Innovator of the Year for 2016 by The Henry Ford and STEM Educator of the Year for 2018 from METC.



Sarai Bakal
Instructional Math Coach
District 75 Citywide Programs, New York, NY



Sarai Bakal went to elementary school in Israel. When she was 10 she moved to the United States where she struggled to learn English. Bypassing language, she pursued Fine Arts and continues to paint to this day. Her love for teaching began during her education at Florida State University. In the following years, she earned her degree in special education and followed her dreams to NYC where she became a teacher in the largest special education district in the country. She continued her education by participating in certification programs such as TARA-Autism, Center for Teaching and Research, The Urban Advantage Science Initiative at participating NYC science-rich cultural institutions, NYC professional development and conferences around the city. She recently began a new position as a district-wide math coach for schools of special education, providing instructional support and resources to hundreds of teachers.



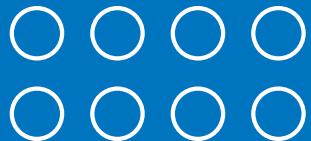
Nancy Balaun
STEM Lead
Oakcliff Traditional Theme School, Doraville, GA



Nancy Balaun left a lucrative job as a System's Engineer with IBM 14 years ago, because she wanted to make a difference in the lives of children whose financial circumstances put them at risk of underachieving due to lack of opportunity. She has continued to learn and develop her skills through professional development so she can make learning exciting, engaging, and meaningful for students. She seeks to complement classroom learning by developing business and higher education partnerships within the community, as well as researching and adapting 21st century technology and skills for the classroom.



Amanda Barber
Third Grade Teacher
Reeds Elementary School, Lexington, NC



Amanda Barber is a third grade teacher from North Carolina. She has been teaching for 10 years and absolutely loves using LEGO® products with her students. She currently mentors other teachers throughout her school system on ways to use LEGO products in the classroom.



Jon Bishop
K-12 STEM Coordinator, Computer Science Teacher &
Robotics Coach
Canton Public Schools, West Simsbury, CT



Jon Bishop has been a tinkerer, problem solver, and questioner his entire life. As a child, between making and taking things apart and running through his daily investigations, he always had an interest in what would become known as the STEM field. Throughout his career, Jon has been developing programs and teaching science, technology, engineering, and math to students from kindergarten through high school. Jon believes in the value of a difficult problem to puzzle through. He enjoys the challenge of learning and working with the latest and greatest technology, and he appreciates the chance to think the long thought and grow through hard work over time. Now, as the STEM Coordinator for his school district, Jon enjoys challenging all students to constantly grow in his computer science and robotics courses as well as his various robotics teams.



Julie Blystad
Science & Robotics Teacher
Bertschi School, Seattle, WA

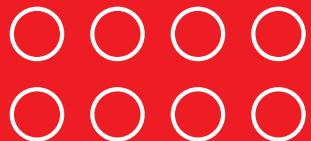


Julie Blystad has taught science, robotics and technology for over 20 years. As the daughter of a biologist and aeronautical engineer, it has been her calling. One of the highlights of her career was being selected as a 2017 LEGO® Educator of the year and traveling to Billund, Denmark where she had an opportunity to meet with LEGO educators from around the world.



Advisor

Lynne Boucher
STEAM Director & Educator
Viera Charter School, Rockledge, FL



Lynne Boucher has been a Florida educator for over 20 years. She has spent the past several years working to incorporate art and creative problem solving into STEM education so that ALL students can learn. One of the reasons why Lynne loves to use LEGO® Education kits in her classroom is because of the many creative applications you can use to get students excited about everyday learning. Lynne has two adult sons and a husband who is an incredible cook! When she is not teaching, she can be found reading, stargazing, or playing with her 4 large dogs.



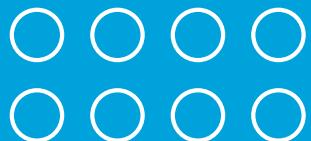
Jeffrey Bradbury
Coordinator of Instructional Technology
Westwood Regional School District
Twp. of Washington, NJ



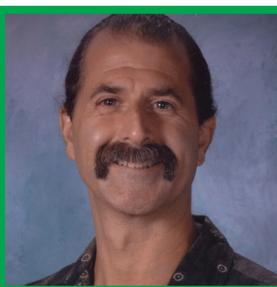
Jeffrey Bradbury is the Coordinator of Instructional Technology at Westwood Regional School District and the founder of the TeacherCast Educational Network.



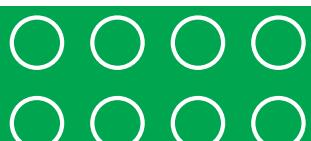
Alisha Bridges
LEGO Lead Teacher
Jesse S. Bobo Elementary, Spartanburg, SC



Alisha Bridges is an educator with a passion for engineering, design, and fostering creativity in her students. Working for 12 years at a Title 1 school in an urban setting, Alisha sees the value of enabling students to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, and increasing her students' interpersonal skills. Before becoming an instructor in her school's LEGO Lab, Alisha taught first grade for ten years. As a mother of two small children herself, Alisha recognizes the powerful learning tool that LEGO® bricks can be.



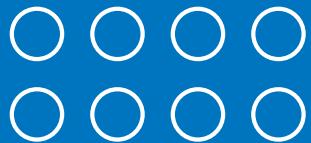
Allen Brooks
Technology Teacher
San Elijo Middle School, San Marcos, CA



Allen Brooks earned his degree in Liberal Studies from California State University San Marcos. He currently holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, a Single Subject in Industry and Technology as well as a Career Technical Education. He teaches technology at San Elijo Middle School. Prior to pursuing his teaching career, he owned an international computer hardware and software development company. He is a serial entrepreneur and currently, together with his wife, owns another company (RetainIt.com) which has products in the orthodontic and sporting goods industries.



Lisbon Brown
Math Coach
Lukeville Upper Elementary, Brusly, LA



Being the mother of three very, bright and energetic individuals and the nana of two inquisitive granddaughters, Lisbon Brown's love for learning and passion for children spans decades. She is always looking for ways to challenge youth and empower them to become independent problem-solvers. She loves to travel for new adventures and network with others.



Katie Buckley
Special Educator & STEM Coordinator
LeRoy CUSD #2, LeRoy, IL



Katie Buckley is an educator in the LeRoy School District. She teaches special education classes, STEM classes and provides support to teachers in PreK-12. She is also a member of various Facebook groups such as STEM TeacherTribe and Merge Educators. Her teaching philosophy is that all students have the capacity to learn regardless of their age or ability level. By using engaging activities, students are able to grow academically, socially and emotionally.



Mathieu Campet
School Based Technology Specialist
Wolftrap Elementary School, Vienna, VA



Mathieu Campet is a STEAM Teacher and School Based Technology Specialist in Fairfax County Public Schools. He studied Early Childhood Education at James Madison University (undergrad), Integration of Technology in Education at George Mason University (M.Ed) and has completed many courses in Education Administration at the University of Virginia. He has been a teacher his whole life. From teaching his little brother how to jump on a bed, giving swim lessons at the local pool, to spending the last 15 years in the classroom (K, 1st, Technology & STEAM), it has been his life's passion!



Advisor

Michael Carton
Director of Education
WQPT Quad Cities, Rock Island, IL



Michael Carton is the Director of Education and Outreach for WQPT Quad Cities PBS, and a former first grade teacher. For more than 10 years, he has been teaching children in grades K-6 with LEGO Education products, including WeDo, WeDo 2.0, MINDSTORMS NXT, MINDSTORMS EV3, BuildToExpress, Simple Machines, and StoryStarter. When he's not teaching children, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and six-year-old son, and preparing for twins that will arrive later this year.

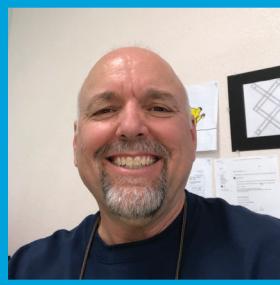


Advisor

Ian Chow-Miller
Robotics Teacher
Frontier Middle School, Graham, WA



Ian Chow-Miller is a middle school teacher who would be bored teaching without LEGO®, robotics and other hands-on STEM materials. Ian was a proud member of the LEGO® Education Advisory Panel and loves the opportunity to engage with the products both at the company level and in his classroom. He is the author of several books on robotics, 3D printing and a STEM series for kids. In his spare time he coaches soccer and he lives in Washington State with his amazing wife and two sons who are growing up too fast.



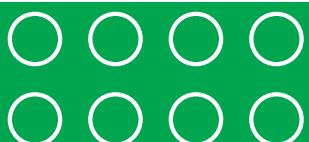
Allen Clupny
Robotics Teacher
Rio Rancho Middle School, Rio Rancho, NM



Allen Clupny uses LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 and its software to help his students learn about and understand technology as it relates to core subject curriculum concepts and technology being used today. He retired from the USAF in 1997 with 20 years of work in Instrumentation and Telemetry, building computers and data acquisition systems for aircraft and laboratory tests and performing evaluations of navigation systems. He has 10 years of experience as a maintenance, operations and process technician and as an INTEL Corp in the automated factory. Allen also has 2+ years as a Robotics Teacher at RRMS.



Ashley Coffman
Educational Technology Trainer
Mansfield ISD, Mansfield, TX



After getting her degree in business and working in the business world the first year after graduation, Ashley discovered that her true passion was in teaching. She has been in education for 16 years - the first six as a high school technology teacher and the past 10 as an Educational Technology Trainer. As an EdTech Trainer, Ashley is fortunate to have the opportunity to share her love for technology with other educators and help them take teaching and learning to the next level with the integration of technology. Some of her key accomplishments over the past five years have included launching and coordinating a district-wide robotics program and facilitating the integration of STEM content and activities into curriculum and instruction.



Christopher Colson
21st Century Technology Teacher
Goff Middle School, Pawtucket, RI



Christopher Colson has been married to his wife, Kelly, for 22 years. They have 3 children: Kayla 20, Sarah 17, and Ryan 13. He is a sports fan, particularly football, baseball and hockey. His hobbies include photography, videography and travel. He is also a youth sports coach, coaching baseball, softball, hockey, and cross country.



Laurie Condon
Gifted Resource Teacher
Rollins Place Elementary, Zachary, LA



Laurie has been a National Board Certified teacher as an Early Childhood Generalist since 2006. A two time Teacher of the Year winner, Laurie serves on numerous committees and curriculum development teams, both for her school and her district. She serves on the District Science Leadership team, the Arts integration team, the Technology team, and the Robotics team. She was instrumental in developing summer STEAM camps that supported hundreds of learners investigating science, technology, engineering, and math while integrating art. Laurie is also a National Geographic Certified Educator, which unites her with a global community of educators that she uses to impact her students as she seeks to develop the next generation of explorers, conservationists, and global citizens.



Maya Donnelly
Computer Science & Robotics Teacher
Rosalind Franklin STEM Elementary School, Pasco, WA

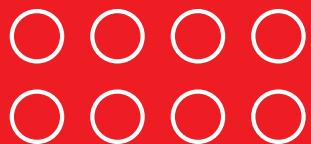


Maya Donnelly is an experienced Computer Science Teacher with a demonstrated history of working in the primary/secondary education industry. Maya is skilled in computer science, robotics, and STEM curriculum design. She is a strong community and social services professional with a master's degree focused in Elementary Education and Teaching from Washington State University Tri-Cities.



Advisor

Sharon Dudley
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Rogers Heights Elementary School, Laurel, MD



Sharon Dudley is a veteran educator with over 20 years of experience in the early childhood field. She is a kindergarten teacher at a Title I school in Prince George's County with a 95% ESOL population. Sharon uses technology to create games and personalized take-home reading books for each child based on their needs and interests. She was featured in a TV news segment for being a blind educator who achieved certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in just one year, and she has served as a mentor for candidates who are aiming to achieve certification themselves. Sharon and her husband enjoy ballroom dancing, going to gaming conventions, and reading books by authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Jane Austen, and Alexandre Dumas.



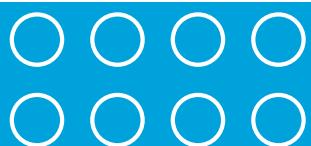
David Dulberger
5th Grade Magnet Teacher
Emma K. Doub Elementary, Hagerstown, MD



David Dulberger is currently a 5th grade magnet teacher and a 1:1 Apple Distinguished School. He attended Salisbury University where he majored in Elementary Education and minored in Psychology. Dulberger completed part of his student teaching internship in Auckland, New Zealand where he taught 5th grade. David is part of the 2015 class of Apple Distinguished Educators, a 2014 PBS Digital Innovator, a Front Row Ambassador, and a SMART Technologies Exemplary Educator. David has presented at a variety of educational technology conferences and events such as SXSWEdu and FETC. He continues to deliver professional development for teachers around the world who share his passion for instructional technology. Follow him on Twitter @mrddulberger #5thGradeU.



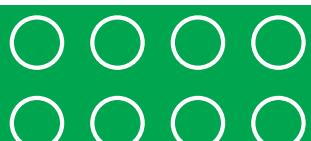
Melissa Edmonds
Gifted Education Resource Teacher
Kyle R. Wilson Elementary, Woodbridge, VA



Melissa Edmonds has been working with gifted students at the elementary school level for 12 years and has a passion for teaching them. Prior to becoming a resource teacher, she taught honors and advanced placement physics at the high school level. She enjoys leading professional development in gifted education and in mathematics at her school, in her division, and at state and national conferences.



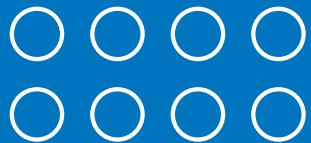
Kelly Etlinger
Special Education Teacher Multiple Disabilities Grade 4
C. Richard Applegate School, Freehold, NJ



Kelly Etlinger is a Self-Contained Teacher of students with multiple disabilities in the Freehold Township School District. She currently teaches 3rd and 4th grade students. Her goal as their teacher is to help them become more independent and leaders in their community and within their learning. She enjoys watching her students grow and learn new things while sharing their new knowledge with their mainstream peer base.



Maria Gariela Eyzaguirre
Educational Technology Integration Specialist
Contingency Faculty NMU (ED483)
Marquette-Alger Resa, Marquette, MI



Gaby Eyzaguirre is originally from Lima-Perú. She teaches the Media and Technology course for pre-service teachers at Northern Michigan University's School of Education, Leadership and Public Service, and is the Instructional Technology Integration Specialist for the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA 2013 - present). Gaby has served as the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) Regional Coordinator (2013, 2014) and TRIG Ambassador (2015, 2016) for the Rural Northern Michigan Region and Consultant for EDUPATHS (2017 - present). Before she moved to Marquette, Gaby worked at the American School of Lima-Perú. She has over 20 years of experience as a teacher, ten of them as the middle school technology coordinator and technology integration specialist. She has also been an FLL and WRO robotics coach. While under her guidance her school's teams ranked among the top three Peruvian National Champions. She has presented on multiple occasions nationally and internationally.



Grace Finn
Challenge Teacher & Coordinator
Field-Stevenson School, Forest Park, IL



Grace Finn is a parent, a teacher and an innovator. She puts forth her best to make each day great for all those she encounters. She is a traveler and takes her family on camping adventures with the goal of visiting all of the US national parks (they are halfway there!). She is curious and passionate about many things and works to instill that sense of wonder and engagement in both her own children and in those she teaches.



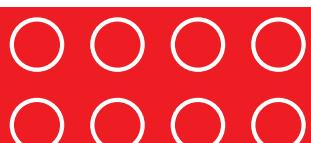
Lindsay Foster
Learning Technologies Coach
Burleson ISD, Burleson, TX



Lindsay Foster is a passionate educator with 18 years of experience, working with educators and students to implement and integrate technology with fidelity and rigor in the classroom. She is a Google Certified Educator Levels 1 and 2 and a Google Certified Trainer. She believes that there is a tool for every educator and every student to learn how to integrate technology in a meaningful way.



Javier Garcia
Math & Robotics Teacher
Boston International Newcomers Academy, Boston, MA



Javier Garcia is in his fourth year of teaching high school students. He is a Mexican American, born and raised in California and is currently teaching mathematics and robotics.



Renee Geddings

Math, Science, Social Studies Teacher Grade 5
& Robotics Team Lead Coach
Wren Elementary, Piedmont, SC

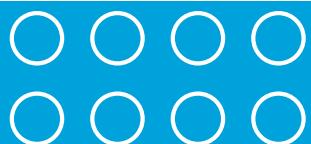


Renee currently serves as an elementary math and science teacher. In her prior district, she launched an elementary robotics program under a Magnet Schools of America Grant serving K5-5th graders in a Title 1 school. Renee holds a master's degree in Administration and Supervision from Clemson University. She is an avid supporter of infusing opportunities in the arts, engineering, authentic problem-solving, and creativity throughout her curriculum. Her ambition is to ignite students' curiosity, imagination, and interest in appropriately challenging learning that brings both continuous joy and intellectual growth. Renee was also recognized as the US LEGO® Education Teacher of the Year in 2017.



Rebecca Gerdes

Media Specialist & Librarian
Port Allen Elementary, Port Allen, LA

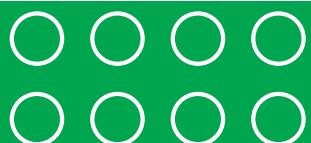


Rebecca Gerdes is currently the Media Specialist at Port Allen Elementary School, serving students in grades K-2nd. She received her Graduate Certification in School Librarianship in May 2018. She enjoys her role as the school librarian because she has the freedom to allow students to learn through exploration using a variety of resources.



Angela Gier

4th Grade Teacher
J.W. Carpenter, Dallas, TX



Angela Gier currently resides in Dallas, Texas and teaches 4th grade math and science at Carpenter Elementary. She just completed her second year in the Kosmos Energy STEM Teacher Institute through the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Last summer, she was selected to expand her learning at the Honeywell Educators at Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. As the Campus Activity Coordinator, she also facilitates the FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) Robotics Program, University Interscholastic League (UIL) Academics for Elementary students, Destination Imagination, and Texas Academic Decathlon: Lone Star Challenge.



Jen Gilbert

Teacher, LBS, M.S.
Hyde Park Day School, Northfield, IL



Jen Gilbert is an educator and STEM Specialist currently working in the suburbs of Chicago, IL. As a lifelong learner certified in Early Childhood Technology and working towards a certification in Engineering Education, Jen loves nothing more than partnering with other educators to develop innovative activities that support learning across all disciplines. In addition to social media integration for schools and nonprofits, Jen often provides professional development on individualized learning for adults and students, computer programming and robotics, infusing maker education activities into the classroom and using technology to tell your story. Jen also loves animals and if you ask her about her research on The Science of Flying Dogs™, she will teach you that dogs can fly and physics is a part of your everyday life.

**John Giles**

Robotics Teacher

Glenridge Middle School, Orlando, FL



John Giles is an old zookeeper turned teacher in Orlando, FL. He has taught K-8, focusing on science and technology. He currently teaches Exploration of Robotics.

**Kristy Gilpin**

Teacher

Rollins Place Elementary, Zachary, LA



Kristy Gilpin has been a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher in Louisiana schools for the last thirteen years. She earned a Master of Education in 2005 and is currently working toward certification in school librarianship. Kristy has presented at conferences around the country on gifted education, science and social studies content, and most recently on integrating arts with content standards. Kristy is active in several committees at her school and seeks out opportunities to work with teachers and pursue her passions for using technology in education and developing students who are global citizens.

**Arielle Goldstein**

Technology Facilitator & School Library Media Specialist

West Morris Mendham High School, Mendham, NJ



Arielle Goldstein began her career as an elementary school Computer Teacher and became a School Library Media Specialist shortly after. After over ten years in elementary, she started working as a high school Media Specialist. She has won an award for her Excellence In Technology Education, she sits on the board of two organizations, NJECC and NJASL, and works as a MakerDepot Ambassador. When asked about herself, Arielle describes herself as “not just a teacher but a School Librarian, a Technology Specialist, a Curriculum Writer, a Trainer, and a STEM teacher and organizer.” Her passions involve #maked, reading, dogs, children’s books, and traveling.

**Advisor****Karen Greer**

Home School Instructor

Gallatin, TN

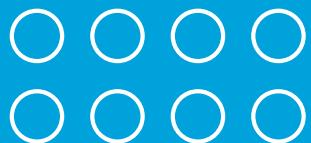


Karen Greer is from Nashville, Tennessee. She has a combined 34 years of teaching experience in grades PK-5th and as a school counselor in public schools in Tennessee and in an International school in Shenzhen, China. She currently works with homeschool students and ESL students from China. She has a MS in counseling and a MA in Reading Education from Western Kentucky University. She was a proud member of the LEGO® Education Advisory Panel.



Advisor

Caroline Hanson
STEM Gifted & Talented Teacher
Aspen Middle School, Aspen, CO

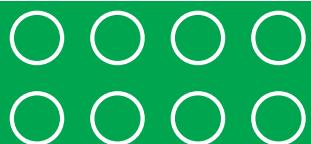


Caroline Hanson is a middle school robotics teacher and coach for *FIRST® LEGO®* League (FLL) teams and *FIRST®* Tech Challenge (FTC). She advocates for STEM education in her district, regionally, and serves on the state tournament planning committee for *FIRST®* Colorado. Caroline supports the gifted and talented program, provides reading enrichment, and co-leads a project and problem-based integrated learning pilot. Coffee, LEGO®, and her family motivate her to expand her thinking.

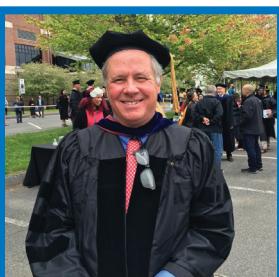


Advisor

Erin Theresa Hardy
Second Grade Teacher
Richland County Elementary School, Albion, IL

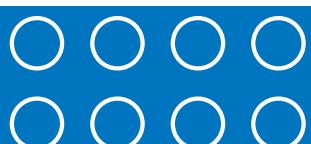


Erin Hardy is a second grade teacher at Richland County Elementary School in Olney, IL. She is passionate about creative, engaged learning and challenges her students to create with LEGO® and express themselves. Erin enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband, daughter, and their Corgi dog Edna.



Advisor

John Heffernan, Ph.D.
Technology Coordinator & Teacher
Williamsburg Elementary Schools, Williamsburg, MA



John Heffernan is a Technology Coordinator. For the last 13 years, he has designed and implemented an innovative technology curriculum that provides deep, rich, engaging technology experiences integrated with standards. In his own teaching practice, John developed an innovative PK-6 elementary engineering curriculum, fully aligned to standards, which is available at <http://www.kidsengineer.com/> and in his book *Elementary Engineering: Sustaining the Natural Engineering Instincts of Children*. John received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2016. John received his Ph.D. in 2017 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he researched developmental characteristics of elementary students engaged in open-ended engineering challenges. John is also a part-time lecturer at the Tufts Center for Engineering Education and Outreach.



Aly Hethcoat
Teacher
Maize Virtual Preparatory School, Maize, KS



Aly Hethcoat has been passionate about Education Technology her entire teaching career. After receiving her MS in Educational Technology in 2003, she created a middle school technology leadership class where students created weekly videos, a school newspaper and assisted teachers with integrating technology into their classroom. For the past 10 years, Aly has been in Virtual Education. She was also the FLL Jr. coach for her son's team. This past year she successfully wrote two grants that funded a LEGO Robotics Team with over 100 students. In the MVPS LEGO Robotics Team students learn about coding using WeDo and MINDSTORMS® robots. Students meet in a live online class, then in person to finish their challenges. This past year, Aly received the Excellence in Education Award for Maize Virtual Preparatory School.

**Eric Heuerman**

Teacher

Green Park Lutheran School, St. Louis, MO

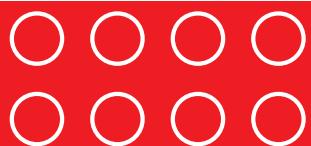


Eric Heuerman is a former woodworking carpenter who began a second career in teaching at the age of 34. He has a great passion for technology, STEM, and sports. His coaching experiences and love of educating children in all fields help make him the successful and motivated teacher that he is today!

**Advisor****Scott Hodges**

Director of STEM Development

Kenosha School of Technology, Kenosha, WI



Scott Hodges is the Assistant Principal and Director of STEM Development at KTEC-West in Kenosha, WI. He has been involved with LEGO Education for the last nine years. He started the LEGO Education programming at KTEC as a 4K-5th Grade LEGO Education teacher. He was a FIRST LEGO League coach for several years as well. He was recognized by LEGO Education twice as the "Teacher of the Month." He was a proud member of the LEGO® Education Advisory Panel and is excited to continue as a Master Educator with LEGO Education as he believes that their solutions inspire students!

**Nadine Jacang**

STEM Teacher

Kamehameha Elementary School, Honolulu, HI

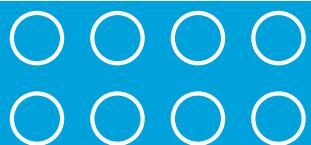


Nadine Jacang is a software engineer that made the decision to stay home when she was having her 5 children. She home-schooled her children to allow her family freedom to travel any time of the year to visit family in Hawaii. After moving back to Hawaii, her children have been blessed to attend The Kamehameha Schools. Being active in the Kamehameha community has opened up not only many volunteer opportunities at the school, but it has also allowed her to become a robotics coach and STEM teacher. This position has allowed her to have an impact on the next generation of not only engineers, but doctors, lawyers, teachers, and more.

**Anna Johnson**

K-5 Teacher

Bethlehem Elementary School, Locust Grove, GA



Anna Johnson has worked as a gifted teacher and is currently a STEM teacher. She was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be the LEGO Robotics sponsor this year. Anna believes that all students can learn. It is up to educators to discover students' interests in order to develop lessons that meet their needs. She also started a LEGO® club at her school because her students love LEGO!



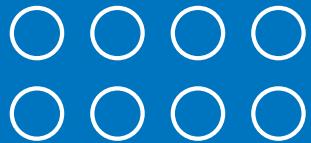
Anthony Johnson
Teacher
Isenberg Elementary School, Salisbury, NC



Anthony Johnson is a fifth-grade science and social studies teacher at Isenberg Elementary School in Salisbury, N.C. He is an Apple Distinguished Educator and TED-Ed Innovative Educator and was selected as Teacher of the Year for the Rowan-Salisbury School System in 2016.



Susan Julio
Gifted Education Teacher
West Navarre Primary School, Navarre, FL



Susan Julio currently works for the Santa Rosa County School District as a Gifted Teacher. She was born in New Orleans but moved to Annapolis, Maryland when she was five so she considers that her hometown. She lives in a lovely, Gulf-front condominium with her husband, son and two ragdoll cats. She has a daughter who is married and works as an art teacher.



Wesley Kennedy
Gifted Specialist
Athens Intermediate School, Athens, AL



Wesley Kennedy has taught LEGO Robotics for the past 17 years. As a Crew Trainer for Space Academy for Educators, he presented workshops to teachers for many years on the implementation of LEGO Robotics in the classroom. He has coached a FLL team for several years and competed at the state level several times. He currently uses LEGO robotics in his Gifted classroom and his students are ready for more challenges.



Greg Kent
Technology Coordinator
Kailua Elementary School, Kailua, HI



Greg Kent was born and raised on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. He is the Technology Coordinator at Kailua Elementary School. He is the IT/EleMakery manager of the school and develops meaningful technology integrated units to co-teach with teachers. Greg wants to empower students to change their world.



Bernard Key
CTE STEM Educator
Rich Township High School SD 227, Matteson, IL



When Bernard is not teaching high school robotics and computer science, he is coaching and mentoring middle school students in his community. Bernard works with inner city high risk youth to engage them in STEM and robotics.

**Laura Knapp**

K-5 Technology Teacher

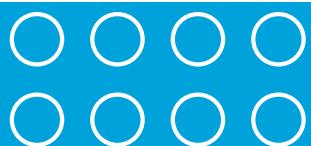
Gateway Science Academy South Charter School
St. Louis, MO

Laura Knapp grew up in the Midwest and spent most of her adult life in the St. Louis area. She's always had an interest in technology and computer programming, even teaching herself programming languages in her spare time in high school. She's been dedicated as an adult to reach out to children, especially the underserved student population, in order to provide them with challenges and opportunities in science and technology based learning. In her free time, Laura is an avid board game player.

**Denis Kogan**

Instructional Science Coach

District 75 Citywide Programs, New York, NY

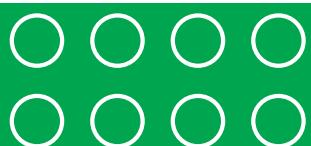


Denis Kogan has been working in District 75 for over 10 years, 7 of which were as a science teacher and laboratory instructor at P753K, The Brooklyn School for Career Development. Currently, he works within the STEM department as the District 75 Science Instructional Coach. He is one of only 183 Space Foundation Teacher Liaisons located throughout the world and the only one in New York City. He uses space-related education programs and principles in the classroom to act as an advocate for space-based education in schools and districts by working with space organizations, such as NASA, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and the Canadian Space Agency. He has also been employed at CUNY Brooklyn College, School of Education, as an adjunct lecturer, teaching a master level graduate course on Curriculum Modifications and Learning Environments for students with special needs in the Physical/Life Science instructional setting. He also serves on the Special Needs Advisory Board of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).

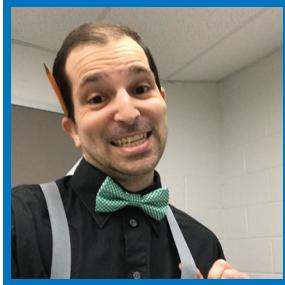
**Amy Kuntz**

Lead 4th Grade Teacher

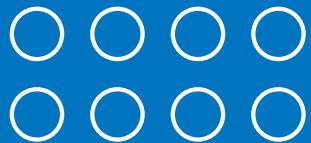
Frank E. Schall Elementary, Caro, MI



Amy Kuntz received her undergraduate degree from Huntington University (Indiana) in 2001 and has a master's degree in Educational Technology from Boise State University (Idaho). She has been teaching at Caro Community Schools, a rural area in Michigan's thumb region, for 17 years in various age groups. She is a 4th grade lead teacher, technology coach, school improvement science chair, and co-runs an afterschool computer coding and simple robotics club that she helped to create. Amy is a Foundation Fellow for Dow Corning and Saginaw Valley State University, a Microsoft Innovative Educator, Apple Teacher, Smithsonian Science Education Academy for Teachers participant, and has spoken at several conferences and workshops on the importance of STEM in education. Amy is passionate about STEM and bringing her students new opportunities through writing grants and cultivating partnerships. She is currently working with two Michigan universities on curriculum opportunities, one which will combine virtual reality with their global campuses to expose her students to the world beyond. Follow along with her at thatselementary.weebly.com.



Brian Lachance
School Based Technology Specialist
Keene Mill Elementary School, Springfield, VA



Brian Lachance is in his 7th year as a school-based technology specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia. He works with students and teachers daily to bring 21st century learning to all. He is married with a 7-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. In his free time, he enjoys all sports, particularly running and soccer.



Daniel Lipin
Science Teacher, Robotics Coach & Community Council Advisor
Hackley School, Tarrytown, NY



Daniel Lipin is a science teacher who loves teaching middle school kids. He is always looking for new challenges to encourage his students to think more deeply about the scientific concepts they are covering. Daniel heavily integrates the engineering design process into his classes and encourages his students to be resilient in the face of failure and keep trying until they succeed. He also LOVES LEGO, has a TON of LEGO bricks in his classroom (standard and technic) and seeks to integrate it into his classes whenever possible.



Wendy Lizana
Gifted Education Teacher
Bayou View Elementary, Gulfport, MS



Wendy Lizana left her job in the finance world to begin her career in education because she wanted to make a difference. Her hope is to inspire her students to be their own “Sparkitects” where they are in charge of being the spark that creates innovation, creativity, kindness, ingenuity, exploration, and courage. She also wants to inspire her peers to embrace the technological revolution in their classrooms so that the future will be equipped with prepared leaders.



John Long
Technology Program Specialist
School District of Palm Beach County
West Palm Beach, FL



John Long is a learner, educator, integration specialist, grant writer, as well as a learning architect. His primary function is to provide professional development to the over 13,000 teachers in the area of Educational Technology. This includes creating professional learning communities like the MOD Squad, Tech Ambassadors, and Team TLC. John was involved in the grant writing in Palm Beach County that won the 2016 MSAP Grant for \$11.6 million dollars. He is heavily involved in the development and implementation of this grant.



Advisor

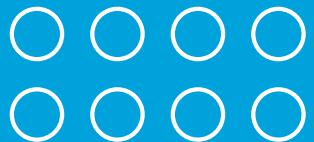
Aaron Maurer
STEM Lead
Mississippi Bend AEA, Bettendorf, IA



Aaron Maurer currently serves as STEM Lead for the Mississippi Bend AEA and is the Founder of the non-profit 212 STEAM Labs, Inc. He served as an Instructional Coach for Bettendorf Middle School. He has been in education for over a decade teaching sixth grade social studies, literature and computer as well as spending many years teaching gifted education in grades 4-8 before becoming an instructional coach. A former FIRST® LEGO® League coach for eight years, Aaron is a PBS Digital Innovator, PITSCO Tag Committee, Microsoft Innovator Educator Expert, Skype Master Teacher, Minecraft Global Mentor, and was a finalist for the Iowa Teacher of the Year in 2014. He is an avid fan of STEAM, Makerspaces, and Project Based Learning. In his free time he loves to spend time with his three kids, Aiden, Addyson, and Ava, their new bulldog Frankie May, and acting like the fourth child to his wife Amanda. He is an avid coffee consumer frequently spotted wearing bow ties searching for that perfect cup of joe. Follow him at www.coffeeforthebrain.com, at <https://www.212steamlabs.com/> and on Twitter @coffeechugbooks.



Philip Mayhoffer
Innovation Teacher
Boulder Country Day School, Boulder, CO

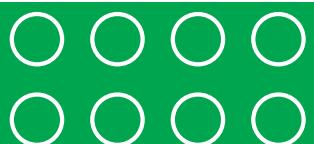


Phil Mayhoffer is fascinated by the process of learning and creating and loves to learn and try new things himself. From designing new things to 3D print to experimenting with different food combinations in the kitchen, he is a maker at heart. When not using fun new tools to make stuff at school, he can be found enjoying time with his family (often building or cooking with them).



Advisor

Deborah McAllister
UC Foundation Professor, School of Education
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN



Dr. Deborah McAllister is a tenured, UC Foundation Professor in the School of Education at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She joined the UTC faculty in the fall semester of 1993. Previously, she taught at the University of South Dakota, and at the high school level in Kansas and Massachusetts. She is licensed to teach secondary mathematics and biology in Tennessee. She served as Faculty Senate President from 2012 to 2014 and was the 2014 recipient of UTC's Outstanding University Service Award.



James McDaniel
STEM Teacher
Cooper Middle School, Austell, GA



James McDaniel is a teacher who is a student at heart. He loves being innovative and teaching innovatively. His best days are when students have fun while learning. Technology drives the way he designs his instruction as his goal is to decrease the digital divide amongst the students that he teaches.



Amanda McDermott
Elementary STEM Teacher
Montour Elementary School, Pittsburgh, PA



Amanda is a self-motivated teacher and lifelong learner. She seeks out any and all opportunities that she can bring back to build a better learning experience for her students and better herself as an educator. She holds a MS in Instructional Leadership and is certified in K-6th grade Elementary and K-12th grade Technology Education. She believes it is important to take risks in learning and teach her students to do the same. Her belief is that you only truly learn when you reach outside your comfort zone. She has had teaching experiences in both Australia and Aruba prior to starting her career in Pittsburgh. She enjoys spending her summers traveling around the world with her husband to learn about other cultures (her favorite part of the world is Southeast Asia).



Becky McDowell
K-5 STEM Teacher, Coach & Team Leader
Roslyn Road Elementary, Barrington, IL



Lifelong learner and educator, Becky McDowell, grew up and landed her first teaching job in South Dakota. Known for her go-with-the-flow and flexible nature, she has taken on many brand new roles like her current one as a PreK-5 STEM teacher for Barrington 220. Becky's goal is to develop future ready students who think critically & creatively, collaborate, and communicate and use the Engineering Design Process to solve problems. Always looking for new challenges she keeps busy with freelance editorial and product development work, regional & national presentations, and edutaining her Kindergarten twins. Most recently in her new learning endeavors, Becky completed a STEM certificate through Tufts University and is now a Teacher's Assistant for the online program.



Amanda McFee
Science Instructional Coach
District 75 Citywide Programs, New York, NY



Amanda is an educator, who specializes in working with students with special needs. She works for the District 75 STEM Department, focusing on Science and LEGO Robotics. Amanda believes in access for all, and is committed to reaching all students by making learning accessible. She assisted in the development of the District 75 LEGO 75 EXPO, a partnership with NYC FIRST®, using the FIRST® LEGO® League Junior (FLL JR) model for the last 2 years.



Rebecca McKeithen
Headstart Teacher
West Navarre Primary School, Navarre, FL

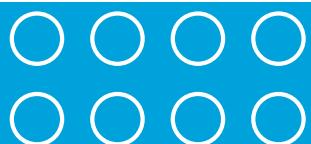


Teaching Headstart is Rebecca McKeithen's passion because she serves students living at or below the poverty level in her area, giving them a positive first educational experience that gets to be the foundation of all future learning. Working with the youngest learners, she believes in the education of play, problem solving, and cooperation. She is so proud of the culture of kindness in her classroom that stems from children experiencing love, safety, and fun within the walls they share each day! She is also a wife, mother to two children, and Founder and President of FoodRaising Friends, Inc., a charity that gives children and families at risk for hunger, breakfast and lunch during long breaks from the free breakfast and lunch programs at school.



Advisor

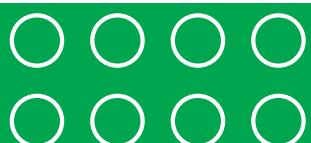
Mary Meadows
Head of School
Andrews Academy, St. Louis, MO



Mary Meadows was recently appointed Head of School at Andrews Academy-Creve Coeur. She has 24 years combined early childhood/elementary classroom and administrative experience. As a doctoral candidate in Webster University's Ed.D. program, Transformative Learning in the Global Community, Mary is completing her dissertation with an emphasis on playful robotics investigations in kindergarten. She has a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development and Management and a Master of Arts in Teaching with emphasis in Educational Technology. Mary enjoys sharing her expertise at education conferences. She is a Discovery Education Network STAR Educator and a member of the PBS Teachers Advisory team. Mary was instrumental in introducing robotics to students and teachers at Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School while integrating robotics into the K-6 curriculum and serving as a volunteer FIRST® LEGO® League coach. Mary enjoys spending time with her husband and three children.



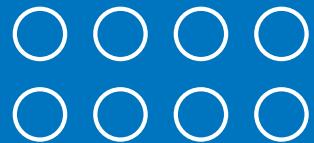
Alicia Miller
Early Childhood Educator
Lewiston Elementary School, Evans, GA



Alicia Miller is a military brat who settled down in Evans, Georgia and began her 20-year-and-counting teaching career, dedicated for the last 15 years to inspiring 3rd graders towards a love of all that is science and math. Her passion and rampant curiosity for science and the outdoors overflows into her classroom, where you will often find her gathering materials in preparation for the latest project and guiding students towards new discoveries as they create solutions to real-world problems. Mrs. Miller enjoys kayaking, riding motorcycles, and completing home projects with her husband, who is a chemical engineer. Together, they have five children and fourteen grandchildren, with whom she often tests her latest experiments and ideas.



Julie Moore
STEM Teacher
Wellington Elementary, Lexington, KY



Julie Moore has taught in Fayette County Public Schools since 2003 and at Wellington Elementary for five years. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Roanoke College, a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Midway College, a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Kentucky, and her Literacy Specialist Endorsement at UK. She is a mother of a third grader, Gus, and a first grader, Kate. She enjoys tinkering, painting, and reading.



Joe Moseley
STEM Coordinator
The Cornerstone School, Ocala, FL

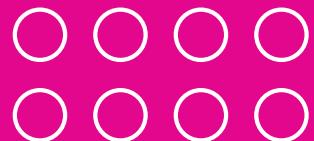


Over the past 17 years Joe Moseley has taught science, social studies, and STEM skills. Mr. Moseley has initiated and developed the STEM program by choosing the STEM curriculum, developing the robotics program, and introducing several other technology programs (Girls Who Code, 3D printing, Computer Coding, etc.). He has several certifications in STEM education through Project Lead the Way, organizes and conducts afterschool programs, and organizes three robotics tournaments each year. He was a recipient of the 2018 US LEGO® Education Teacher Award. Joe has a bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida. In his spare time he is an avid Appalachian Trail hiker (1,600 miles done, 600 miles to go).



Advisor

Becky Myers
Primary Enrichment Specialist
Columbus City Schools, Dublin, OH



After more than two decades of teaching in various private educational venues, Becky Myers currently serves as a Primary Enrichment Specialist in the largest school district in Ohio. In this role, she works with classroom teachers to deliver a K-2 higher-order-thinking-skills curriculum in schools with low gifted identification rates. While she adores her students, her most fulfilling teaching (and learning) role has been being a mom to her two teenage boys. She lives with them, her husband who is also a teacher, and one sock-stealing Whoodle in Worthington, Ohio.



Elizabeth Nelson
K-5 STEM Teacher
Barrington Community Unit School District #220
Barrington, IL



Elizabeth Nelson is a master teacher and an educational leader passionate about STEM education at the elementary level. In her current role she develops, implements, and evaluates K-5 STEM curriculum and events for her district. Elizabeth's main goal is to grow global leaders ready to solve problems that don't yet exist. She strives to teach her students the cognitive competencies necessary for success, as well as the engineering design process, robotics, and programming. The best part of her day is playing and learning alongside her students!

**Bruce Nelson**

Robotics & Design Teacher

Indian Creek Elementary, Indianapolis, IN

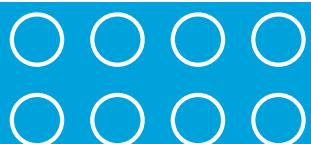


Bruce Nelson was born in Indiana, raised in California, returned to his roots for college and never left. For as long as he can remember being a teacher was high on the list of things he wanted to be when he grew up. Bruce began working with children in a preschool setting while still in high school and since that time has taught every elementary grade in some fashion, either as a classroom teacher or as a subject area specialist. Besides teaching, he loves to draw (he even has his own comic strip) and loves to read (graphic novels being a favorite). He rekindled his personal interest in LEGO a few years ago and has found the local LEGO® User Group (LUG) to be a valuable resource for experts and ideas. His wife and cat find him mildly amusing.

**Jennifer Newby**

Teacher

Jacksboro Middle School, Jacksboro, TX

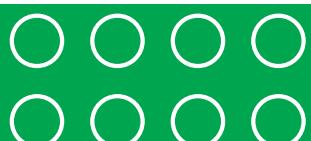


Jennifer Newby has been teaching for 16 years. She has taught both special education and regular education in grades 4-8, English Language Arts and Technology/Robotics. She earned her Master of Educational Technology from Midwestern State University in December of 2008. Her passion is to instill a love of learning in children through the use of a technology rich environment.

**Danielle Nicholas**

Lead Pre-K Teacher

Primrose School of Burlington, Burlington, MA

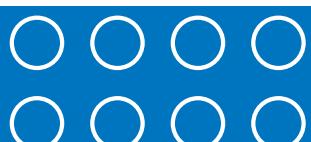


Danielle Nicholas was raised just north of Boston in a small town where she found a passion for working with children at an early age. She started her career in Early Education while attending Framingham State College and from there went on to work in childcare facilities helping children learn and develop from infancy to Pre-K. In her spare time she enjoys attending concerts, yoga, crafting, event planning, cooking and traveling!

**Sarah Petersen**

Innovative Learning Facilitator

Anchorage School District, Anchorage, AK



Sarah began her teaching career in Alaska in the fall of 2004. After being awarded a technology grant in 2006 and receiving equipment for her classroom, she was inspired to return to school and earn her Master of Educational Technology. In 2009, Sarah left the classroom and joined a district level position to support teachers in technology integration. She currently works as a K-12 STEM Science teacher expert for the Anchorage School District.

**Amanda Peterson**

Campus Instructional Technology Specialist (CITS)
Lamar CISD, Rosenberg, TX



Amanda Peterson was born and raised in Milford, Iowa, where she graduated from Okoboji High School. She went on to Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, where she graduated with a BA in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Multicategorical Resource Mild. She was a K-5 Resource Room Teacher at Jackson Elementary in Lamar Consolidated Independent School District for 8 ½ years, before she became a Campus Instructional Technology Specialist (CITS) at Lamar CISD. She has a wonderful husband who is a CITS for Lamar CISD, and a son who is in 7th grade. She enjoys sewing, crafting and spending time with friends and family in her free time.

**Sarah Phelps**

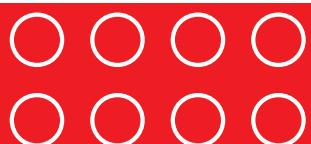
Elementary Computer Science Teacher
C.A. Henning Elementary School, Troy, IL



Sarah attended Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville where she earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 2008. She went on to earn her master's degree from the University of Scranton in Curriculum and Development in 2012. Sarah taught in a 4th grade classroom for 8 years before becoming the elementary computer science teacher for students in 4th and 5th grade district-wide. She has a passion for STEM education and helping her students find the joy in learning.

**Marie Phillips**

Third Grade Teacher
St. Peter's Catholic School, Columbia, SC



Marie Phillips is a 14-year veteran teacher at St. Peter's Catholic School. She aims to bring an open mind, a positive attitude, and a bright smile to the classroom each day. Through a hands-on teaching method and innovative style, she creates an atmosphere that is not only academically rigorous, but morally and spiritually guided to provide the best educational experience for each student. Marie not only uses LEGO solutions in her classroom but has inspired other teachers to be creative and innovative using LEGO solutions in theirs. Marie is a proud wife and mother of three beautiful children and while she loves to be creative in all aspects of her life, she also has a deep sense of service to others.



Advisor

Peggy Reimers

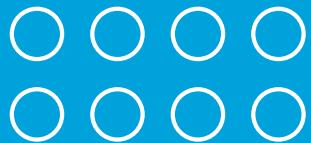
Director of Professional Development
TCEA, Austin, TX



Peggy Reimers is a Director of Professional Development with TCEA. She facilitates professional development with G Suite for Education, mobile learning devices, robotics, makers, and other current technology trends. Formally a public school teacher, she shared her passion for technology and her creative, hands-on approach with elementary students for 26 years. Peggy earned her M.S. in Educational Technology from Lesley University and her B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Montana – Billings. Her superhero ability is figuring out which LEGO® minifigure is hiding in the little foil-sealed packages.



Amanda Reulet
Media Specialist
Lukeville Upper Elementary School, Brusly, LA



Amanda Reulet has worked as a Media Specialist since 2013. During that time, she has slowly been transforming her library space to incorporate a Makerspace. Amanda enjoys sharing her trials and tribulations with that experience with other educators. She is in constant search for new and innovative lessons and activities for her students.

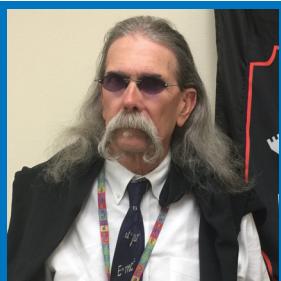


Breigh Rhodes
Gifted Teacher
Zachary Community School District, Zachary, LA

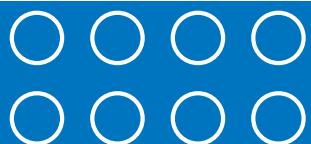


Advisor

Breigh Rhodes teaches elementary students and also works with fellow educators by developing curriculum and providing professional training in the Zachary Community School District. Breigh holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a master's degree in Gifted Education. From observing penguins on an expedition in Antarctica as a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow to studying Renaissance greats in Italy and Paris with Fund for Teachers, Breigh is always exploring innovative pathways for inspiring and empowering learners through student-centered, authentic projects and experiences. Honors for her exemplary work in science education include the Council for Elementary Science International's Essie Beck Rising Star award and the 2011 Disney's Planet Challenge national grand prize.



Scott Richards
Certified K-12 Special Education Teacher
Sigler Elementary, Plano, TX



Scott Richards is a 551,880+ hour old retired architect, and has been a Special Education Teacher for the last 16 years. He practiced architecture for 25 years and led his own architectural firm for 13 years after graduating as the Alpha Rho Chi Medal recipient from the University of Arkansas. He transitioned to teaching within six months of closing his architectural practice by choice and not circumstances. Scott passionately pursues teaching each day applying his knowledge and skills of teaching, while layering in his experiences of architecture, design thinking, problem solving, photography, technology and now LEGO® robotics.



Jennifer Rodabaugh
STEAM Lab Teacher
Lansdowne Elementary, Lexington, KY



Jennifer Rodabaugh started her teaching career at the age of 22. She has taught kindergarten, first, second and third grade students. Five years ago, she opened up a STEAM lab on her elementary campus and a whole new world of technology, engineering and project-based learning opened up for her.



Advisor

Amy Leigh Rogers

Lecturer, Curriculum & Instruction

Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN



Amy Leigh Rogers is a lecturer working with preservice and inservice teachers at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee. Before transitioning to the collegiate level, she spent eight years teaching elementary school. As a professional, she spends time searching for text that can inspire students to grow in their own knowledge and self-confidence as readers while experiencing curriculum across various content areas. When away from work, Amy Leigh loves to spend time with her husband, Ryan and their daughter, Janie Mai.

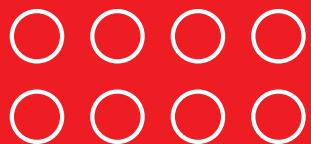


Kathleen Schofield

Executive Director

Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub

Fleming Island, FL



Kathleen Schofield is the Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub. She holds a master's degree in STEM education, and a certificate in educational leadership. She is a doctoral candidate researching the impact of administrative leadership on instructional quality in STEM. She is a LEAD STEM Fellow working to advance STEM policy across the nation. She has presented at many state and national conferences and has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals. Prior to joining the STEM2 Hub, Kathleen was the STEM Supervisor for the Clay County School District, serving over 36,000 students in 41 schools, developing nationally recognized STEM and robotics programs. She led the development of both a district and regional partnership with Code.org. She has written and implemented over \$14 million in competitive grants. Kathleen serves on teams across the nation for district systems accreditation, and STEM school accreditations. She is a national consultant in lesson study with a focus on shifting instructional practices in math and science classrooms towards an inquiry-based, cross-curricular learning environment.



Leonard Sheehy

Technology Teacher

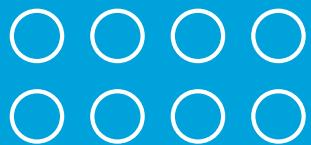
Randolph Middle School, Randolph, NJ



Dr. Leonard Sheehy is a technology teacher at Randolph Middle School in Randolph, New Jersey where he currently teaches robotics, computer programming and crime scene investigation classes. Dr. Sheehy is also employed by the United States Army as a STEM instructor working with scientists and engineers to develop and implement hands-on, state of the art lessons and activities for the camp located on the base at Picatinny Arsenal. He earned a Doctorate in the Educational Technology Leadership at New Jersey City University writing his dissertation on robotics as a mathematics manipulative. Dr. Sheehy specializes in the implementation of hands-on, real-world activities for the application of academic content in all subject areas.



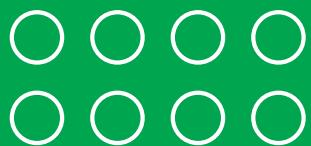
LeAnn Simmerman
Teacher of the Gifted
J.E. Woodard Elementary School, Columbia, TN



LeAnn Simmerman is a proud Tennessean with deep roots in her faith and her passion for education. When she is not challenging gifted students or finding new avenues for their advancement, you will find her with her husband and their four children. She believes in kindness and generosity and excellence.



Joseph Slifka
Technology Teacher
LaBrae Local School District, Leavittsburg, OH



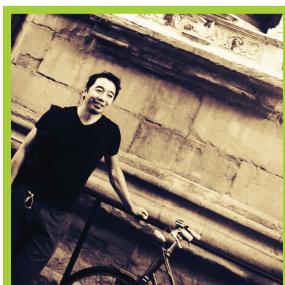
Joe Slifka is a 2007 Youngstown State University graduate with a BS in Middle Childhood Education with concentrations in mathematics and science. He earned his MA in Teaching and Learning in K-12 Technology Integration from Nova Southeastern University in 2011. Mr. Slifka's accomplishments include receiving a \$13,000 grant to start a robotics club from the Toshiba America Foundation in 2014, \$6,500 from the Dominion Education Partnership to supply an environmental technology class with STEM supplies, and being selected as one of 50 educators from a nationwide pool to attend the Siemens STEM Institute in 2011. He was awarded a \$500 Creative Classroom grant twice from WKBN (once as a teacher at Liberty High School in 2011 and again in 2015 as a teacher for LaBrae) and was named a Turning Technologies Distinguished Educator in 2010. He and his wife Deanna have three daughters and reside in Youngstown, OH.



Jeanne Smith
Building Tomorrow Project Implementation Coach
Enfield Public Schools, Enfield, CT



Jeanne Smith has been a teacher of young children for the past 24 years in Enfield, CT where she grew up and still lives. Teaching is not just a job for her. Along with raising her daughter, it is her life's work. Besides teaching, she enjoys traveling with her husband, cooking and books, books, books. She is passionate about horses and cannot imagine her life without them or a couple of cats.



Joey Tanaka
EdTech & Robotics Specialist
Bertschi School, Seattle, WA



Joey Tanaka is an EdTech and Robotics Specialist in the picturesque Capitol Hill area of Seattle. From humble roots fielding an FLL team in 2nd to last place (the last place team went home!), Joey has always felt technology and robotics teaches us more than we realize about what it means to be human. Joey has focused his career on inspiring those around him, knowing that EdTech can revolutionize learning. Joey spent 13 years in the classroom, connecting kids with innovative, tech-infused opportunities that thoughtfully raised social awareness. This led to recognition by the city mayor, the state governor, and adoption of those ideas by graduate school education programs. Joey has won Gates Foundation grants for technology, co-presented at the LEGO Headquarters in Denmark and has earned numerous titles and certifications in his 8 years at his current role. Joey always reminds people that tech is nothing without heart.



Deborah Taylor
Teacher
Central School, Milton, FL



Deborah Taylor is a teacher, mother and wife. She began her career in business, and then she found her passion in working with the Head Start Program. She began as an ERSEA Specialist for Head Start and transitioned to educating Pre-K students. She is now teaching Pre-K students at Central School in Milton, FL. She enjoys creating lessons for her students as they learn and explore. Many of her lessons take little learners to the next level through tactile experiences and learning opportunities leading them to real world experiences and expectations. She lives in the Sunshine state and enjoys going to the beach.



Sherri Taylor
Robotics Teacher
Summit Public Schools, Redwood City, CA



Sherri Taylor's background in tech eventually brought her to LEGO® robotics. She earned her BS in Computer Engineering with a computer hardware focus at the University of Michigan. Sherri started her career in Massachusetts, then moved to California to work on the first UltraSparc. Many startups later she started her family, which took her out of the workforce. When Sherri's children started school, Sherri began the first robotics afterschool program at her daughter's school. They used LEGO® Education WeDo for grades K-3, and MINDSTORMS® NXT for grades 4-5 and formed a competitions team with FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL). When her children moved to middle school, Sherri led the effort of bringing FLL into their school by coaching two seasons and continuing her robotics afterschool program. Sherri is currently teaching Robotics Expeditions at four of the high schools in Summit Public Schools.



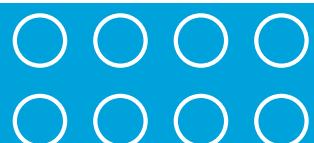
Sarah Tierney
Program Specialist, Professional Development
Marion County Public School, Ocala, FL



Sarah Tierney is a mom to a LEGO maniac and a lifelong learner and educator. She has spent the last twenty years working toward creating equitable learning opportunities for minority students and students who are from low socioeconomic backgrounds. As a district-level educator, she has fielded the opportunity to shepherd programs that could create life-changing opportunities to students in their most high-needs communities.



Laura Travis
3rd Grade Teacher
Wheatland Elementary, Wichita, KS



Laura Travis is a wife, mother of two, and has a love of learning. She is always striving to learn new things and better herself both personally and professionally. She enjoys running, spending time with her family, quilting, and reading when time allows.



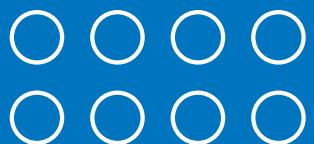
Amy Trujillo
Instructional Coach
Orlando Science School, Orlando, FL



Amy Trujillo is the Instructional Coach of a STEM K-6 school, Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG) Public Relations Chair, and Florida Association of Science Teachers (FAST) Area Five Director. She will become the FAST President Elect at the upcoming annual conference. During her teaching experience, she has taught at the college level and online for adults and has been a grade level classroom teacher, a teacher of the gifted, an ELL teacher, curriculum coordinator, and instructional coach. She has organized and presented at conferences, written articles, and is recognized as a Google Certified Educator Level One, BrainPOP Certified Educator, and PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator. She has worked in education for almost 20 years to ensure that the needs of diverse learners are being met and all students have an equitable educational experience.



Denise Turner
Elementary Educator
Troth Street Elementary School, Jurupa Valley, CA



Denise Turner has been teaching 33 years, most of them in California for the Jurupa Unified School District in Riverside. She has taught all grades from kindergarten through eighth, and has experience teaching students with varied backgrounds, including gifted and talented students, English learners, special education students and students from low socio-economic family households. At home, her hobbies include genealogy, sewing, gardening, and spending time with her daughter, son and husband.



Elizabeth Vaith
Teacher
Big Lake Elementary, Mount Vernon, WA

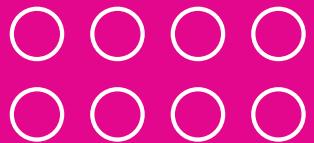


Elizabeth Vaith has been married for 25 years and has 3 beautiful children: Alexander (24), Angelina (15) and Amelia (15). Her husband and their children made the commitment eight years ago to become foster parents and welcomed Angelina six years ago to their family. Her adoption was finalized in May 2018. Elizabeth grew up in Washington State, moved to Virginia after high school to be a nanny and then traveled to Minnesota for college. After she married her husband Bill, they moved to Arizona for Bill's terminal degree in art. In 1997 they moved back to Washington to raise their children. Outside of teaching, which is a true passion for her, Elizabeth enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, riding motorcycles, and reading, but most of all spending time with her family.



Advisor

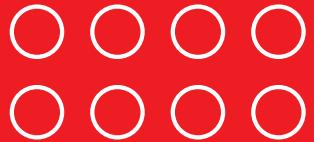
Jill VanWey
Preschool Educator
St Mary's Elementary, Pittsburg, KS



Jill VanWey is an early childhood educator with a background in special education and holds a bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology. Her husband's name is Craig and together they have two daughters. Gardening, home design, reading and walking her dog are her favorite hobbies. Jill VanWey was nominated as one of three finalists for Educator of the Year 2018 in Crawford, Kansas.



Teresa Vera
Education Specialist, Resource Specialist Program
Kingsley Elementary, Pomona, CA



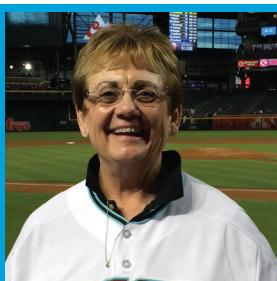
Teresa Vera is a Special Education teacher who has embraced the idea of hands-on learning experiences for her students because she has found that is how they learn best. She is also a technology specialist who is always trying to find the best technology to support in the classroom. LEGO® has changed the way she teaches and she is so glad to have incorporated it into her teaching.



Kareen Wilkinson
Science Teacher
Lilla G Frederick Middle School, Boston, MA

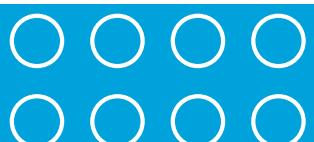


Kareen Wilkinson has been passionate about education since the days she served as a peer tutor in her middle school math class. As a Boston Public Schools teacher for the past 7 years in science, she strongly believes in hands-on learning and igniting the curiosity of the world to her students. She has served as the school robotics coach for the past 5 years and is passionate about coding, engineering and how it prepares students for a digital and tech-savvy world and workforce.



Advisor

Marilyn Miracle Williams
Gifted/ Enrichment Specialist
Tavan Elementary School, Phoenix, AZ



Marilyn Miracle Williams has been an educator for 33 years teaching kindergarten through 5th grade. She was also a Professional Development Specialist serving teachers in her district. Marilyn holds a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies with an emphasis in American History/Literature, an Elementary Education certification, a Master of Arts in Early Childhood, a Gifted Endorsement, and has been a Nationally Board Certified Teacher since 2010. Marilyn currently serves as a Gifted/Enrichment Specialist, where she utilizes LEGO® Education solutions with her classes. Marilyn has received numerous honors including the Tribune Newspaper Educational Leadership Award, Scottsdale Charros Outstanding Educator Award, Arizona STEM Superhero Award Finalist, and the FIRST® LEGO® League Coach/Mentor Award.



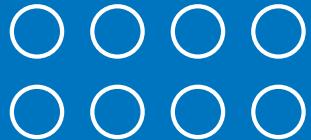
Kristin Williams-Luthi
Teacher
Harbins Elementary, Dacula, GA



Kristin Willilams-Luthi is an accomplished and driven professional with a highly enthusiastic and unmatched drive. She is a self-directed, action-oriented professional with over 10 years of experience as an educator. She passionately provides her students with rigorous instruction focused on STEM integration and robotics. Mrs. Luthi is actively involved in Georgia FIRST® LEGO® League and serves as both a coach and judge. She also directs a GIRLS STEM Summer Camp which provides girls the opportunity to engage in STEM, coding and robotics.



Julie Willie
Teacher of Gifted Students
Aspen Elementary School, Aspen, CO



As a teacher for the last 25 years, Julie Willie strives to light a fire within each child. Her hope is that each student will be enriched by exposure to rigorous tasks and empowered through success. She tries to model living a meaningful life in her own community through her occupation and lifestyle. Living in the Roaring Fork Valley has allowed her to get out into the back country, which she cherishes. When she is not teaching she is usually skiing, riding her bike, hiking and/or advocating for the preservation of public lands.



Kathleen Wright
STEM Specialist
Richard J. Murphy K-8, Boston, MA



Kathleen Wright began teaching elementary students over 20 years ago. Approximately eight years ago, an engineering professor from Tufts asked if she would pilot some engineering lessons in her classroom. She was hooked! STEM became her passion, and she is proud to say that she is the first STEM teacher to be hired in the City of Boston. She loves what she does, and her students love coming to her class.



Huijing Wu
Engineering & Robotics Specialist
Eliot K-8 Innovation School, Boston, MA



Huijing Wu is in her ninth year of teaching robotics, her fourth at the Eliot School. Prior to the Eliot, Ms. Wu taught at the Sarah Greenwood School for five years after completing her Boston Teacher Residency. Before teaching, Ms. Wu worked for seven years at Analog Devices, Inc as a Product Engineer then Marketing Engineer. Her educational background includes a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a M.Ed. in Elementary Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

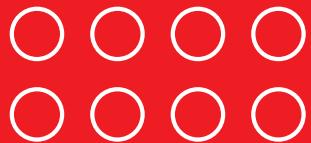


Advisor

Christine Zaremba Gonzalez

Educational Technologist

The Nightingale-Bamford School, New York City, NY



Christine Zaremba Gonzalez is an Educational Technologist at an independent K-12 school on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. She teaches technology and design thinking to first and second grade and coaches the middle school *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL) team. She also plans, designs and delivers technology-based professional development to faculty and staff, manages the school LMS, and supports technology use in all divisions along with the school integrators. Previously, she founded the LEGO® robotics program at St. Edmund School where she coached FLL and *FIRST*® Tech Challenge for seven years. In her spare time, Christine loves to build LEGO® modular buildings, dreams of building a dedicated room for LEGO® storage and display, and tries to make at least three new recipes a week.



Advisor

Jason Zobl-Tar

Reading Recovery Teacher & Reading Specialist

Birmingham Public Schools, Bloomfield Hills, MI



Jason is a Reading Specialist and Reading Recovery instructor in a suburban Detroit elementary school. He has made use of LEGO® Education StoryStarter sets during summer writing camps to introduce students to the writing process, as well as motivate reluctant writers. In addition to literacy, he has brought *FIRST*® LEGO® League and *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. to his school, starting teams for grades 1-5.