

# Meet the 2020 - 2021 LEGO® Education Master Educators





## Australia

Bronwen Bäume-Tarrant

Jessica Muller

Justin Prembroke

## Russia

Andrey Peshkov

Elena Alakban

Maksim Turushev

Maksim Vasiliev

Maria Zilberman

Marina Rybintseva

Maya Sklyarova

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Russian Master Educator  
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**Aaron Maurer**  
**STEM Lead**  
**Mississippi Bend AEA, Bettendorf, IA, USA**

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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.



**Adam Vincent**  
**Technology and Computer Science Educator**  
**Henry Moss Middle School, Bowling Green, KY, USA**

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Adam Vincent is the Technology & Computer Science Teacher at Henry Moss Middle School in Bowling Green, KY.

Vincent is a former music teacher now in the technology classroom.

He enjoys building with LEGO® in the classroom and at home with his wife and two sons.

He coaches his school's FIRST® LEGO® League team, and leads his students in the production of their school news show, along with other technology based classes. Vincent wants to inspire his students and help them become independent learners.

“I would love to be in a community of people who share the same passion for hands-on learning. I am always looking for opportunities to learn more to become a better teacher. I am excited to learn from other educators who do similar things and I hope I can share some of my ideas with others too.”



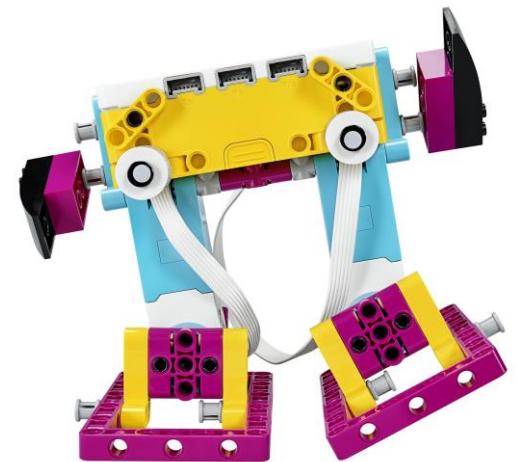
## Ali Dogan

**Computer Science Teacher/Robotics Coach  
Horizon Science Academy, Lorain, OH, USA**

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Ali Dogan graduated from Uludag University at 2011 and worked for 5 years at Cambridge International School as an ICT teacher. Ali then started his new career in the U.S.A. as a computer science teacher.

Ali wants to fully integrate STEM/computer science into all subjects areas, because he believes that technology is not only about using a computer in the classroom. Ali believes if he succeeds as a computer science teacher, his students are also going to be successful in life. To do this he need tools, and LEGO® is his go-to in his classroom.





**Ali Schilpp**  
**Media Specialist**  
**Northern Middle School, Accident, MD, USA**

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Ali Schilpp was five years ago the first and only library media specialist to work at Northern Middle School, Ali tapped into her more than 12 years of library experience to create an engaging, technology-driven space.

Ali expanded learning beyond her rural community by sharing LEGO® Travel Buddy, a digital citizenship library program that fosters global connections.

Ali is a FIRST® LEGO® League coach and continuously seeks new opportunities to challenge her students - from writer's workshops, and STEAM events, to collaborations with notable authors.

Ali is SLJ and Scholastic's 2018 School Librarian of the Year.

“To create and provide an engaging space for all students. I have the unique opportunity to work with every student in the school. My mission is to make learning an innovative and exciting experience and to channel each child's learning style so we can celebrate their strengths and various literacies.”





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

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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, 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.

Alicia 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.





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

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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.





## **Aly Hethcoat**

**Teacher**

**Maize Virtual Preparatory School, Maize, KS, USA**

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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 LEGO® Education WeDo and LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education 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.



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

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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.





**Amanda Buschmann**  
**Librarian**  
**Carroll Elementary, Houston, TX, USA**

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Amanda Buschmann is a STEM-certified librarian from Houston, Texas, with 16 years of experience.

She believes in the strength of the library as a community hub for connecting, creating, and collaboration. In addition to her role as librarian, Amanda serves as creator of a STEM GEMS club on her campus, a dedicated all-girls STEM club that involves everything from 3D-printing to fashion design.

Additionally, Amanda is a certified Future Ready Librarian and Google Certified Educator who loves to build LEGO sets with her son in her free time.

“My teaching philosophy hinges on the belief that students are leaders in the classroom and teachers are the facilitators. Teachers are there to give them resources to help them become successful, encourage along the way, and celebrate learning successes. In my classroom, you will very rarely see me speaking in front; students are more often actively engaged in participating in a lesson, usually linked to the engineering design process as we are a STEM-certified campus.”



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

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Amanda McDermott 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).



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

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Amanda McFee 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 model for the last 2 years.





**Amanda Peterson**  
**Campus Instructional Technology Specialist (CITS)**  
**Lamar CISD, Rosenberg, TX, USA**

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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 Multicatigorical 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.



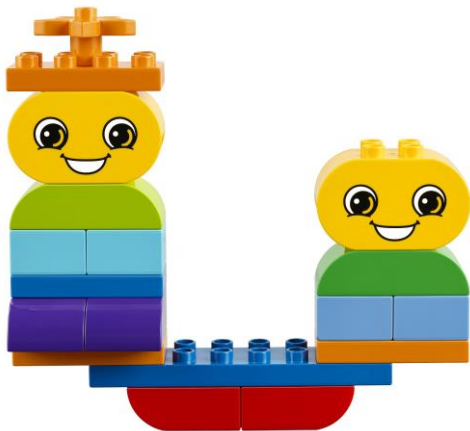


**Amanda Reulet**  
**Media Specialist**  
**Lukeville Upper Elementary School, Brusly, LA, USA**

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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.





**Amy Kuntz**  
**Lead 4th Grade Teacher**  
**Frank E. Schall Elementary, Caro, MI, USA**

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Amy Kuntz has an undergraduate degree from Huntington University and a master's degree in Educational Technology from Boise State University. She's been teaching at Caro Community Schools, for 17 years. She is a 4th grade lead teacher, technology coach, school improvement science chair, and co-runs a 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 students new opportunities through grants and 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.



## **Amy Leigh Rogers**

**Lecturer, Curriculum & Instruction**

**Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN, USA**

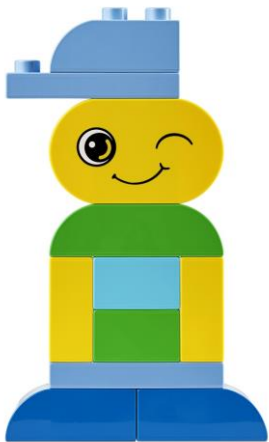
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Amy Leigh Rogers is a lecturer working with preservice and in-service teachers at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee.

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.





**Amy Trujillo**  
**Instructional Coach**  
**Orlando Science School, Orlando, FL, USA**

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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.



**Andrew McCormick**  
**Art Teacher and Robotics Coach**  
**Jesse S. Bobo Elementary, Spartanburg, SC, USA**

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Andrew McCormick is a tech-infused art teacher from Johnston Iowa.

Andrew is passionate about teaching creativity and divergent thought through project-based learning, whether that's through digital arts or robotics.

Andrew has been a FIRST® LEGO® League, FIRST® LEGO League Jr., and FIRST® Tech Challenge coach for six years.





**Angela Gier**  
**4th Grade Teacher**  
**J.W. Carpenter, Dallas, TX, USA**

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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 Robotics Program, University Interscholastic League Academics for Elementary students, Destination Imagination, and Texas Academic Decathlon: Lone Star Challenge.



**Anna Johnson**  
**K-5 Teacher**  
**Bethlehem Elementary School, Locust Grove, GA, USA**

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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!





**Anne-Marie DiFranco**  
Enrichment Teacher  
Citizens Academy, Cleveland, OH, USA

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Anne-Marie DiFranco is a teacher in Cleveland, Ohio at an urban charter school. Anne-Marie has always loved teaching with technology and recently received the position of enrichment teacher which allows her to use coding and LEGO® Education WeDo kits every day. Anne-Marie provides STEM education to her students through hands-on, engaging lessons.







**Ashley Coffman**  
**Educational Technology Trainer**  
**Mansfield ISD, Mansfield, TX, USA**

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After getting her degree in business and working in the business world the first year after graduation, Ashley Coffman 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.



**Becky Schnekser**  
**Lower School Science and Technology Specialist**  
**Cape Henry Collegiate, Virginia Beach, VA, USA**

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Becky Schnekser is a passionate educator who strives to create authentic, application-based experiences for her students.

She believes that students must “do” in order to learn, especially when speaking of science, engineering, and design.

She has been teaching and learning for 13 years in the education world in both public and private schools. Rebecca also believes in sharing information and using social media as a tool in order to do this.

“I want to share my experience with others as well as continue to learn alongside like-minded peers. I am committed to lifelong learning and feel that being a member of this program would allow me to learn, share, and develop my skills as an educator in a different way than I have previously been able. I also feel there is so much more I can learn from LEGO® Education and those who are also committed to LEGO Education. I enjoy delivering professional development and workshops for educators that build their skills and networks. We are all in this together, and I would like to be an active part of the movement.”



**Betsy Vela**  
**Librarian and Instructional Technologist**  
**Lyford CISD, Lyford, TX, USA**

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Betsy Vela is a 20 year educator that has taught a variety of educational technologies to K-12 students and supported teachers as an instructional technology coach.

Betsy loves building student leaders and sharing ideas with educators across the globe. Betsy's current role of librarian merges her strengths of information literacy and technology. When she is not figuring out new technology, you can find her under a pile of LEGO® or books.



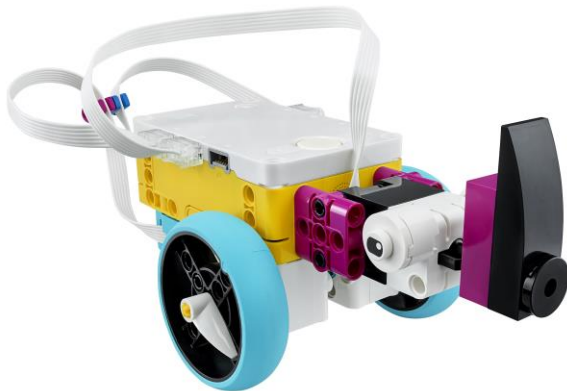


**Brandon Peaster**  
**LEGO Lead Teacher**  
**Randolph Howell Elementary, Columbia, TN, USA**

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Brandon Peaster has taught for 12 years, with the last 8 being with Maury County Public Schools. Brandon is currently teaching third grade at Randolph Howell Elementary School.

Brandon is blessed with an administration that allows him to explore and learn to use new technology and learning strategies. In his classroom, he tries to incorporate hand-on learning into every assignment.





**Bronwen Baume-Tarrant**  
**STEM and Digital Technologies Coordinator**  
**St Virgil's College, Austin's Ferry, Tasmania, Australia**

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Bronwen Baume-Tarrant is an educator with a passion for STEM and inspiring students to be the problem solvers of the future.

Having made the transition from primary to high school, she understands the importance of relationships to engage a wide variety of students.

She believes in providing students with the opportunity to be explorers in their own learning and encouraging a passion for lifelong learning.

“My own strong personal belief that one never stops learning is why I would like to be a LEGO® Education Master Educator. My own desire to continue exploring fits really well with the LEGO education mission and one that I encourage and foster daily with my own students. To enhance my ability to develop robust cross-curricula hands on learning for all students. I don't love LEGO, I love what LEGO (simple building bricks to robotics) brings out in my students and what it inspires them to do.”



**Bruce Nelson**  
**Robotics & Design Teacher**  
**Indian Creek Elementary, Indianapolis, IN, USA**

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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.



**Carol Munn**  
**Technology Teacher**  
**Eisenhower Intermediate School, Bridgewater, NJ, USA**

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Carol Munn is a tech-savvy and dedicated technology teacher with over 18 years of career experience in computer science education.

Highly adept in providing professional development integrating technology into existing curriculum and creating new lessons to encompass digital technology in all subjects. Carol is skilled in implementing a methodology in project-based learning, responsive classroom, cooperative learning groups, performance assessments, and differentiated instruction.

Design and compliment her lessons with high-level engaging learning activities integrating STEM curricula, ISTE and NGSS standards.

Carol considers herself a lifelong learner.

“Innovation, creativity, learning experiences with robotics or other emerging digital technologies ignite exuberance and bring life into a somewhat routine day in a classroom. My philosophy is aligned with the facilitator role in the classroom. In applying innovation and originality combined with hands-on learning activities embraces interaction, exploration, problem-solving, creativity, computational fluency, critical thinking, encouragement, innovation, and engagement plus fun to fulfil the daily activities in my classroom.”



**Carolann Del Giudice**  
**Instructional Technology Specialist**  
**Bronxville Union Free School District, Bronxville, NY, USA**

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Caroleann Del Giudice is an Elementary Instructional Technology Specialist for the Bronxville Union Free School District.

She teaches computer science and robotics to grades kindergarten through fifth. Prior to Bronxville, Caroleann worked for the New York City Department Of Education. Her school was one of fourteen schools participating in New York City Schools SEP Jr. Pilot Program.

Caroleann has created a system that spreads computer science and maker philosophies throughout her building, providing experiences for all. Her passion for Design Thinking and staff development has taken her from Harvard Scratch Ed workshops to curriculum design including computer science and robotics, to national presentations on project-based learning. Her classroom is a hub of creativity and a haven for all learners, helping students and teachers to embrace their inner makers and evolve into lifelong learners.

“I have noticed a profound impact on critical thinking and problem solving. EV3 robotics and WeDo challenge students to think out of the box and persevere. The ability to develop grit and build collaboration skills encompasses what LEGO® Education products do.”





**Chelsea Abreu**  
**Kindergarten Teacher / Library Media Specialist**  
**Randolph Howell Elementary, Columbia, TN, USA**

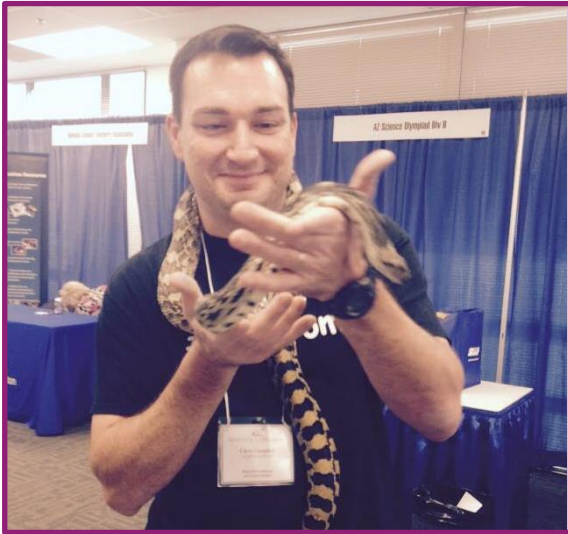
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Chelsea Abreu is a third-generation teacher and teaching children is something she has wanted to do her entire life.

Chelsea is a passionate educator who strives to inspire a lifelong love of learning in her students. She enjoys and actively works to build positive relationships with her students, their families, her colleagues and administration.

Chelsea is excited to incorporate STEM and LEGO® with the teachers and students at her school.

“Students are much more engaged when they use LEGO. I love how they will create stories, build settings, and incorporate math into their designs. LEGO allow students to be creative, exploratory, and use their imagination. Watching how excited students get when they show off their creations is always so fun.”



**Chris Campbell**  
**Master Teacher**  
**Louisiana Tech University - College of Education, Ruston, LA, USA**

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Chris Campbell is a Master Teacher at Louisiana Tech University, where he helps prepare math and science teachers as part of the UTEACH program – Uteach Tech, and is active in STEM teacher professional development through the College of Education’s Science and Technology Education Center (SciTEC). He taught middle math and science, physical science, Algebra, engineering, and coached track for 14 years at Simsboro. He was an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow at the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 2012-2013, served as the NSTA District VII Director from 2011-2014, and is currently the Region IV Director of the National Earth Science Teachers Association (NESTA), and presents regularly at local, state, and national conferences on inquiry-based STEM teaching.



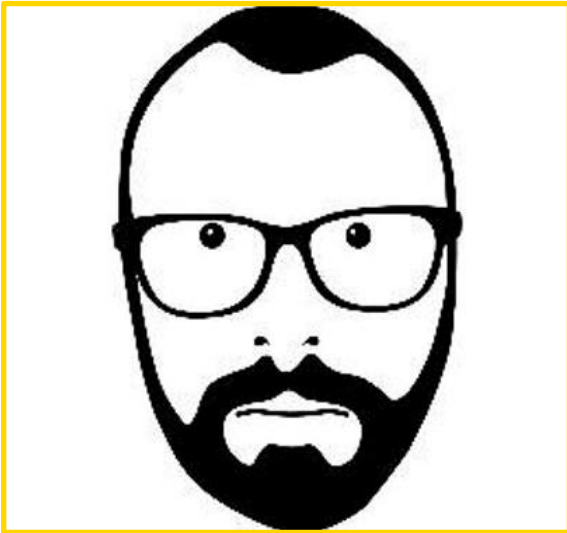
**Chris Colson**  
**21st Century Technology Teacher**  
**Goff Middle School, Pawtucket, RI, USA**

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Chris 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.





**Chris Wilde**  
**Head of Digital Technology & Computing**  
**Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne U.K.**

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Chris Wilde started his teaching career as a History teacher in Newcastle. After winning a commendation for teacher of the Year in 2006, he was seconded to the Learning Authority to work on a Virtual Learning Environment project. While there he upskilled his computing knowledge and pedagogy to teach students in their City Learning Centre. Chris supported over 60 schools and was recognised as a Digital Skills Leader in 2014. He was given the opportunity to build a brand new computer science department in their regions leading school.

“The LEGO® brick is an extremely versatile object to think with. Building models allows pupils to follow algorithms, debug in the analogue world and the importance of sequencing. The ability to build mechanisms with technics bricks allows us to solidify and gain deeper understanding of how things work. The ability to dismantle and rebuild models allows for rapid prototyping and iteration, which supports rapid development of ideas. However the most valuable aspect is that we all have fun with it. We are able to learn through play.”



## **Christine Zaremba Gonzalez**

**Educational Technologist**

**The Nightingale-Bamford School, New York City, NY, USA**

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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 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.



**Cissy Burns**  
**First Grade Teacher**  
**Onaway Elementary School, Shaker Heights, OH, USA**

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Cissy Burns is an enthusiastic, passionate educator in the Shaker Heights City School District. She is a former flight attendant and enjoys travel, her home, and her Ragdoll cat and Cavachon dog.

Cissy also enjoys learning new things, gardening, organizing, and helping others achieve their dreams and chase their rainbows!

“LEGO® Education solutions gives students the excitement to try and to build their prior knowledge base. LEGO are very high interest for all learners to engage, grow, and learn.”



**Dan Thomas**  
**Technology Teacher**  
**Southwestern Central School District, Jamestown, NY, USA**

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Dan Thomas is an avid user of technology and technology tools to enhance student achievement and success. Dan teaches multiple grade levels of students and have a unique skill set that allow him to teach many different concepts and curriculum.

“I believe that it is important to instil in the students the desire to learn. Teachers need to show students that they are learning too. Additionally, it is ok to fail and grow from that. All students are unique and can succeed in their own way at the right time for them.”



**Daniel Aktas**  
**Art / Technology Teacher**  
**Pine Bush High School , Pine Bush, NY, USA**

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Daniel Aktas is an art and technology educator at Pine Bush High School in upstate New York. He constantly works to integrate art, technology, and the community to support his students to be the best makers, thinkers, and builders of tomorrow.

At home, he can be found in his maker space working on everything including 3D printing, AutoCAD, ceramics, crocheting, microcontrollers, programming, and LEGO®.

“I believe students thrive when given agency over their learning experience. Teaching students facts and information is not enough. Empowering students to be lifelong learners in the world outside of the classroom is my goal as an educator. Presenting students with the opportunity to analyse, brainstorm, solve, and communicate are the foundational tools I work to provide for my students.”





**Daniel Cruz**  
**Educational Technology Coordinator and Library IT Chair**  
**Léman Manhattan Preparatory School, NYC, NY, USA**

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Daniel Cruz is a multi-lingual educator that has taught in England, Turkey, China, and the US. He has taught Digital Citizenship, Computer Literacy, Robotics, Podcasting, Python, Lego NXT, HTML, 3D design for architecture, and video production.

In addition, in his current role he had the opportunity to work with his EdTech team to develop and implement Technology curriculum PreK-12th grade.

Daniel graduated from Universidad de America, Columbia, then went on to complete an additional degree at Middlesex University in London. He is certified in Apple, Google, LEGO® Education and Rasberry Pi.

Daniel is married and has two children. During his free time, he enjoys playing soccer, swimming, and traveling with his family.

“Digital making, STEAM, project-based learning, and tinkering are at the core of my teaching philosophy which can be summed up simply as ‘learning best by doing’. I think it is productive to facilitate experiences for students to construct knowledge, more productive than to give them some answers which they won't remember probably and stop thinking. Helping students learn by getting them into the middle of the subject matter and keeping them there is valuable to me.”



**Danielle Nicholas**  
**Lead Pre-K Teacher**  
**Primrose School of Burlington, Burlington, MA, USA**

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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!





## **Deborah McAllister**

**UC Foundation Professor, School of Education**

**The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN, USA**

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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.





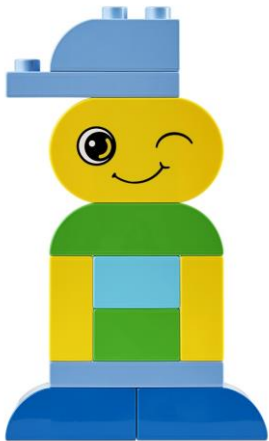
**Deborah Taylor**  
Teacher  
Central School, Milton, FL, USA

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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.





**Denis Kogan**  
**Instructional Science Coach**  
**District 75 Citywide Programs, New York, NY, USA**

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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 in the STEM department as the District 75 Science Instructional Coach. He is one of only 183 Space Foundation Teacher Liaisons in 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 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 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).



**Dwight Tarrago**  
**Science Teacher & Robotics Coach**  
**Grangerland Intermediate, Conroe, TX, USA**

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Dwight Wilhelm Tarrago is a teacher of Science and a Robotics Coach at Grangerland Intermediate in Conroe ISD.

Mr. T, that is how he is called by students. Mr. T knows every gram of innovation in our civilization is due to the use of STEM in different ways and combinations to come up with today and tomorrow's better, more efficient and effective way of life. Technology is the present and the future. Mr. T wants every student to be exposed to hands-on inquiry and the know-how by manipulating technology to understand the importance and applications of theories. The more students connect their learning to real-life applications the better prepared the students will be to accomplish anything in life.

“I use LEGO® Education with a very small number of students. They are part of my robotics team. I have seen first hand how much connecting computer science, robotics with science and math have impacted this small number of students. I want to be able to use LEGO in my everyday lessons with all my students, not just a few. The future is now and I want my economically disadvantaged student to succeed in a few years from any present we may be.”



## **Eduardo Zurita**

### **Instructional Technology Facilitator**

**Los Angeles Unified School District-Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI), Los Angeles, CA, USA**

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Eduardo Zurita helps to lead the district's 21st century instructional practices through implementation of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards and the Leading with Instruction approach. Eduardo currently serves as an Instructional Technology Facilitator that supports teachers to improve their teaching practices by utilizing the LEGO Education hands-on curriculum to drive students' innovation and creative thinking.

As an ISTE Certified Educator, Common Sense Education Ambassador and Google Certified Trainer, Eduardo provides professional development, support, and training to teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and other educational staff both in the schools that he serves and throughout the district. He is also a speaker and has presented at several conferences including ISTE 2018 and the Leading Edge EdTech Summit 2019 in partnership with LEGO® Education. Eduardo holds an M.A. in Education from UCLA and has 17 years of classroom teaching experience. He and his wife have two children and reside in Pasadena, CA.



**Emily Jones**  
**Data Manager and Director of Innovation**  
**KIPP:Central City Academy, New Orleans, LA, USA**

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Emily Jones is an innovative education professional with extensive experience in implementing and enhancing technology (at both classroom and regional levels); seeking to transition her professional experience, technical knowledge, and interpersonal and coordination skills from a school setting towards a broader scope in educational technology.

“Every since I started teaching six years ago, I have always had LEGO® as part of my curriculum. From DUPLO when I taught second grade, to EV3 to middle school and high school, I think that students learn more from doing!”





**Eric Greene**  
**Robotics & Science Teacher**  
**Linden Renaissance Middle School 192Q, New York, NY, USA**

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Eric Greene has 20 years experience at the New York City Department of Education. His education philosophy is to bring access, equity, and excellence to all learners.

Eric has been a FIRST® LEGO® League coach for many years and his robotics team won the 2016 NYC FIRST LEGO League finals 1<sup>st</sup> Place Champions Award and went to go compete at the World Festival Tournament.



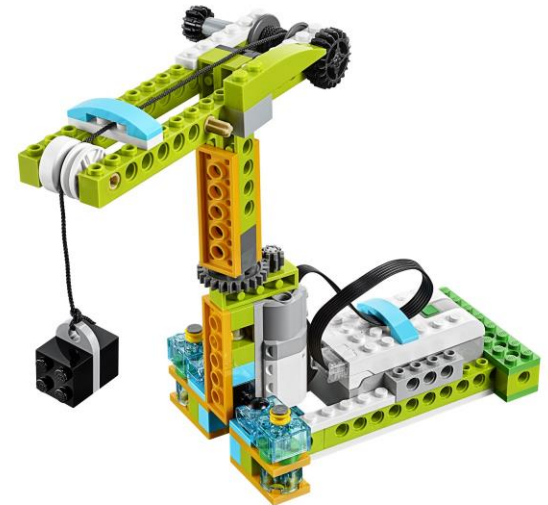


**Eric Heuerman**  
Teacher  
Green Park Lutheran School, St. Louis, MO, USA

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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!





**Erica Shook**  
**English Department Chair**  
**McPherson High School, McPherson, KS, USA**

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Erica Shook is a 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year nominee and is currently serving as the English Department Chair at McPherson High School and adjunct instructor of English at McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas.

Erica believes in the importance of building student empathy through literary experiences and that students hold the capacity to be leaders and advocates in their communities, which she encourages and fosters through Project LIT Mac, project/problem-based learning, equity-centered design thinking, and service-learning activities in her classroom.

Erica is also passionate about helping educators fuel their own passions by supporting them in their continued professional learning and collaboration.

“My personal philosophy of teaching has changed many times since I began my career, but what I have found to be most effective is twofold: 1) Love my students, accept them for the awesome people they are and help them to see that for themselves if needed, model for them what good citizenship and leadership looks like, and be real and honest with them always; and 2) do my best to support, empower, and elevate other teachers-especially our newest ones.”



**Erik Murray**  
**Science and Engineering Teacher**  
**Jonas Clarke Middle School, Lexington, MA, USA**

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Erik Murray started teaching with LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education, LEGO® Education WeDo and Simple Machines, which lead to many opportunities for him as a teacher, for a majority of his career he worked with middle school students both in formal and informal education.

Recently, Erik presented at conferences on how to implement LEGO® inside the classroom.

“I love LEGO, I teach with LEGO currently and have made my own curriculum. I would love to have to support of the community to make my curriculum better as well as use others. I feel LEGO is such a great thing to teach with, the universality of the blocks, how every student innately knows how to use them is so incredible. It really speaks to the kid and the learner in everyone!”



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

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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.



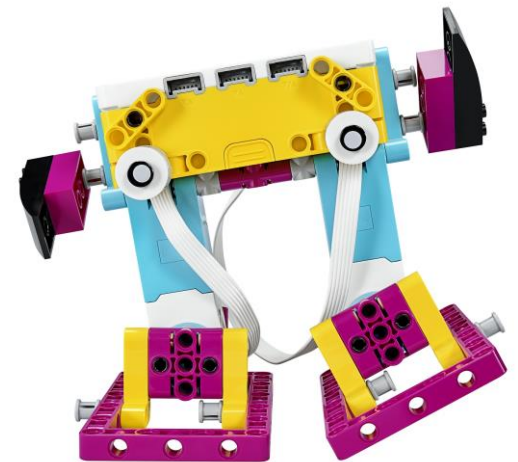


**Esther Martosoetjpto**  
Science Specialist Teacher  
Curtner Elementary, Milpitas, CA, USA

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Esther Martosoetjpto is an attentive science specialist teacher with excellent communication skills.

Organized and driven with the innate ability to stay on task. She uses effective and efficient methods of teaching while focusing on the individual needs of each student.





**Francisco Javier Cajaraville-Bonilla**  
**Computer Science Teacher**  
**Fair Haven School, New Haven, CT, USA**

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This is Fran Cajaraville, second year as a technology and computer science teacher in New Haven, but working for 12 years on technology in Spain.

His goal is to make positive changes in his students' educational journey, by better equipping them for the future.

Principles of coding with Code.org tutorials, Scratch and Robotics.

Francisco leads afterschool coding clubs, which include enrichment robotics, LEGO® Education WeDo, and LEGO® MINDSTORMS® for his students. He teaches students in Spanish and English. One of his greatest accomplishments as a teacher is getting girls interested in learning more about computer science, STEM, Robotics, and coding. He would like to empower more girls and minorities to join technology fields.

“My teaching philosophy is starting from what my students already know, they just want to develop their natural curiosity.

I want my students not just to learn how to make a robot but to have a purpose to use it, like use robots to help nature to survive.”



**Gaby Eyzaguirre**  
**Educational Technology Integration Specialist**  
**Cont. Faculty NMU Marquette-Alger Resa Marquette, MI, USA**

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Originally from Lima-Perú, Gaby Eyzaguirre 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.

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 is a Consultant for EDUPATHS.

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 FIRST® LEGO® League and World Robotics Olympiad 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.





**Gina Nakahara**  
**Robotics & Technology Teacher**  
**Roy W. Martin Middle School, Las Vegas, NV, USA**

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Gina Nakahara Robotics / LEGO® / Technology Educational journey started in 2003, her passion for learning stems back to her 21 years of military service. She volunteered as a big sister to a young middle school student and took on the coordinator job of the “Partnership in Education” program - bringing the military and local community together. Gina is a life-long Learner, earning four degrees including my educational specialist post-grad degree.

She fully embraces the philosophy that all children can learn. Through the LEGO® Education and Robotics programs she had the opportunity to reach all students in a fun and engaging way.

“The biggest challenge facing students today is being "plugged in" to society. Students are constantly battling the technology urge to stay connected. Social media is all the rage. Teachers are competing with Youtubers (famous video makers who glorify DIYs and Video Games). It's a new world for us digital immigrants. The way I respond is to embrace technology and learn as much as I can to stay ahead of the curve. Quite a steep curve, but it is possible to stay the course. I truly believe that if I am the "Lead Learner" I will not only admit that I don't know everything as expected, but I am willing to take a risk, pull up my sleeves and tackle technology head-on. I respond by incorporating as many technology platforms and opportunities into my classroom while keeping the fundamentals of learning in tact. I am just as inspired by my students as they are with their learning. Thus, the cycle of learning continues to grow”



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

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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 traveller 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 instil that sense of wonder and engagement in both her own children and in those she teaches.





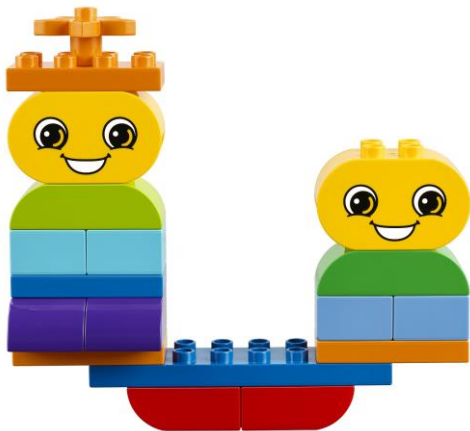
**Greg Kent**  
**Technology Coordinator**  
**Kailua Elementary School, Kailua, HI, USA**

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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.





**Hermelinda Talley**  
**Instructional Media Specialist / FLL coach**  
**Ellen Ochoa at Ben Milam Elementary, Grand Prairie, TX, USA**

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This is Hermelinda Talley's fourth year teaching as a bilingual/ESL instructor and second year as an instructional media specialist in Grand Prairie TX.

Working in a Title 1, she has coached FIRST® LEGO® League for the fourth year and this last year her team won first place in qualifiers.

She has been using Simple Machines to teach STEM and she loves coaching a new robotics team made up from students from the whole district every summer. "I love looking for new fun technology that challenges the students to grow problem solving skills and keeps them engaged."

"I want to help my students develop the thinking skills they will need in the future and to know that they are learning by doing what they love and come up on their own and be involved in their own learning"



## Holli Taylor

**6th Grade ELA & Science Educator and Tech Mentor  
Nadaburg Elementary School, Wittmann, AZ, USA**

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Holli Taylor is a National Board Certified Teacher that mentors, enhances, and elevates the learning spaces of students.

Thinking beyond the box and creating spaces that provide Holli's students a place that expresses their diverse needs is what drives her in the classroom. Being a rural teacher empowers Holli to connect students to the world by raising their voice to be the changemaker they're born to be.

Holli's family is a LEGO® family that collects minifigs, memories at LEGOLAND, and building something awesome!

“My teaching philosophy is prepare my students for a world that does not exist yet. That as educators we have the privilege to know each individual child and celebrate the diverse learning needs. Though this celebration we strengthen our practice to elevate the learning for future scholars.”



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

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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.





**Ingrid Cruz**  
**STEM Teacher**  
**Oxon Hill Middle School, Fort Washington, MD, USA**

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Ingrid Cruz is a dedicated educator for more than 12 years. She just recently completed her doctoral degree at Southern University's Science and Math Education program. In her dissertation, she investigated the Impact of Educational Robotics in Promoting the Critical thinking of Middle School Students.

She developed a multi-level robotics program in middle school consisting of the following courses: LEGO® Robotics; Green Design and Technology; RobotC programming with Tetrax; and Marine Robotics. She coached several robotics teams and sponsors robotics competitions as well. She is an advocate of getting girls engaged in math and science thus, she had been sponsoring the Pink robots club consisting of middle school girls that offers programming workshops to elementary robotics teams.



**Jacob Woolcock**  
**Head of Computing and Digital Learning**  
**Penpol School, Hayle, Cornwall, U.K.**

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Jacob Woolcock is a dynamic and creative Primary Computing teacher from Cornwall, UK. He believes firmly that the children should be directing their own learning and that as a teacher his role is to provide a nurturing, fun and engaging environment for this to happen.

By setting challenge based tasks and allowing the children to explore their ideas in a safe space using a variety of different technologies and resources he creates environments where mistakes and risk taking are encouraged.

He reminds his pupils that by making mistakes we learn how to overcome them and this forms a fundamental part of learning and developing.

“Hands-on learning to me means the very opposite - I need to be hands off. I need to create an opportunity for the children to get stuck into and then take a small step back to watch them find their own outcomes. I can guide and steer things a little if needed, but it should be the children who are hands-on and exploring what is relevant to them, not what I think should be relevant. With practice this can be directed in certain ways so that essential standards and objectives are met, whilst still allowing children to be as hands-on and as in control of their learning as possible. I try and take this approach in all of my Computing teaching, not just the lessons with LEGO® WeDo 2.0, as I think it has benefits in all aspects of learning. Creativity is key!”





**Jameelah Wright**  
**Prekindergarten Teacher**  
**Three Stages Learning Center, East Orange, NJ, USA**

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Jameelah R. Wright is an early childhood educator in East Orange, New Jersey. Additionally, she is a doctoral candidate at Montclair State University whose research interests include Early Childhood Education and Gifted Education.

“Because my students are young (3, 4, & 5 years old) learning can only be hands-on for them. Developmentally, they are at the concrete stage of learning. Everything must be experienced before they can internalize the abstract. Therefore, we learn through play. Learning has to be experiential in order for it to be meaningful to my students. Learning the basics of alphabets, numbers, shapes, colors, and more has to be learned by playing games where they have the opportunity to touch and manipulate these things. Whether whole group, small group, or individually, all throughout the day in my classroom, my students are learning through hands-on activities.”



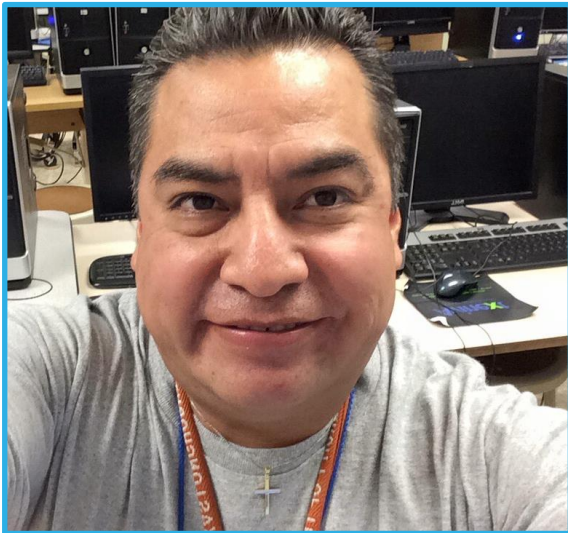
**James McDaniel**  
**STEM Teacher**  
**Cooper Middle School, Austell, GA, USA**

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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.





**Javier Aguilar**  
**Technology & Computer Science Teacher**  
**East Fort Worth Montessori Academy, Fort Worth, TX, USA**

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This is Javier Aguilar's fifth year as a technology and computer science teacher in Fort Worth. 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® Education 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, Minecraft Edu and coding. As a father of two girls, Javier would like to empower more girls and minorities to join technology fields.



**Jeff Bradbury**  
**Coordinator of Instructional Technology**  
**Westwood Regional School District, Twp. of Washington, NJ, USA**

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





**Jen Gilbert**  
Teacher, LBS, M.S.  
Hyde Park Day School, Northfield, IL, USA

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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 non-profits.

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.



**Jennifer Kling**  
**Elementary Technology Teacher**  
**Vernfield Elementary School, Telford, PA, USA**

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Jennifer Kling realized she had a passion for teaching with LEGO® robotics after seeing its impact on children. When they learn how to read directions, design, build, code, fail and try again, they've learned vital life skills.

She is a 2017 Classroom Design Challenge winner, 2016 Apple Education Teacher and grant recipient from numerous foundations including Microsoft, the Souderton Area Education Foundation Innovation awards, James Beard Foundation and Donors Choose. She has coached two teams for FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE robotics and designed her own after school and summer STEM courses. In the summer, she teaches camp for GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science) at UPenn.

She also volunteers with TechGirlz.com. Jennifer has been teaching students and staff how to use technology in the classroom in the for over 15 years. Jennifer is happiest when she is able inspire educators and students to utilize technology solutions that engage and motivate them to live a purposeful life.



## **Jennifer Nicholson**

**Technology Integration Specialist**

**L'Ouverture Career Explorations and Technology Magnet School, Wichita, KS, USA**

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Jennifer Nicholson is a Technology Integration Specialist at L'Ouverture Career Explorations and Technology Magnet Elementary School in Wichita, Kansas. Her goal is to model the love of learning through technology. Jennifer enjoys sharing all kinds of technology with students at L'Ouverture including App Smashing, Google Classroom, Tynker, Minecraft EDU, Green Screen video and much more.

However, her true passion shines through teaching with LEGO® Education products. LEGO give all students the opportunity to shine through creativity, teamwork and problem solving. Jennifer is helping to encourage the builders of tomorrow through fun in learning today..

“I believe that 21st Century public schools should be innovative environments for all students. All students no matter where they live, socioeconomic status or learning needs deserve an equitable and excellent public education. Innovation in public schools should come in various forms including how children are seated in the room to the technology that they use. Technology in education is one of the key factors in levelling the educational playing field for all students. In order to rise above our current educational issues as a country, we can not continue to teach as we have for the past 100+ years. My philosophy of education rises up out of this call to action. I believe that in order for schools to be innovative and relevant they need to promote creativity and self expression, prepare students for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce and have a sustainable technology plan.”



## **Jennifer O'Sullivan**

**University School Instructor, K-5 STEAM Lab**

**A.D. Henderson University School, Boca Raton, FL, USA**

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Jenny O'Sullivan teaches in the K-5 STEAM Lab at A.D. Henderson University School on the campus of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. Jenny teaches a LEGO® mini-elective course that allows students to enhance their LEGO creations with green screen and augmented reality technologies.

Recently named the 2020 FAU Lab School District Teacher of the Year, O'Sullivan also has presented on STEAM and technology in the elementary classroom at major education conferences including FETC and ISTE.

She currently serves on the National Science Teachers Association's Technology Advisory Board. Jenny is also the proud mother of three.

“Students today face many challenges when it comes to digital citizenship. The issues of social media and digital peer technology use come into play in even unexpected activities. I teach digital citizenship to give my students the tools they need to respond to these challenges.”





**Jennifer Walker**  
**Teacher / STEM Specialist Teacher**  
**Randolph Howell Elementary, Columbia, TN, USA**

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Jenny Walker has been an elementary teacher for 6 years. Jenny has a passion for STEM and recently completed her master's degree with a concentration in STEAM.

She has been chosen to be the STEM teacher at her school next year and she is so excited to share her passion with students from pre-K through 4th grade. Jenny will be an integral part of helping her school become a Tennessee STEM designated school.





**Jenny Miles**  
**Teacher**  
**Emerson Middle School, Pomona, CA, USA**

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Growing up Jenny Miles always knew that whatever job she would have it would need to be something that she could use her hands. Jenny loves to work with middle school students because they keep her mind young at heart. Jenny believes that students need to be producers not just consumers. Her message to anyone is to pursue your passion, it will keep you afloat during difficult times if you love what you are doing.

“The more you can engage students with kinaesthetic learning the more they will remember a concept. I also believe that students will learn from you if they believe you have their best interests. You need to build a relationship with your students for them to want to learn from you. Especially for middle school students who are trying to figure out their identity as they are beginning to grow up.”



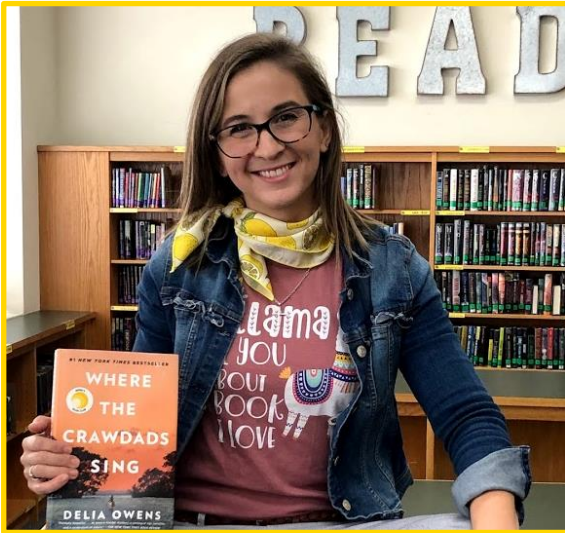
**Jessica Day**  
**Instructor & Technology Instructional Coach**  
**Riverside Elementary, Battle Creek, MI, USA**

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Jessica Day is a dedicated, resourceful instructor who is committed to bringing unique educational opportunities to her students. She introduces young students to STEM-based projects to motivate them to explore future career paths in this high-demand field. Jessica's passion for technology instruction within and beyond the traditional school day has led her to take on educator roles for FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. Robotics, Google Computer Science First, and Bricks 4 Kidz.

A regular attendee of the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), she brings new technology educational practices back to her staff and supports program implementation for all grade level teachers.

Jessica's dedication to student success earned her the Michigan Lottery Excellence in Education Award, the WIN 98.5 Teacher of the Month distinction, and a grant for a 3D printer from General Electric.



**Jessica Fitzpatrick**  
**Librarian**  
**Sartartia Middle School, Sugar Land, TX, U.S.A.**

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Jessica Fitzpatrick is a middle-school librarian and is in her sixth year of education. She holds a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from the University of Houston and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas.

She enjoys running, reading, and spending time with her two daughters and husband.

“The biggest challenge facing students today is how our environment is changing. Our environment is changing based off education, the future job workforce and how students interact with one another. I am responding by preparing students with the most technology skills training as possible because we are preparing students for a job that has not even been invented yet!”



**Jessica Gafford**  
**Kindergarten Teacher**  
**Northwestern Elementary School, Zachary, LA, USA**

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Jessica Gafford is a wife and a mother of 3 amazing kids. Her 3 children have taught her more about the world and what it means to be an educator than any class she ever attended. They are each a different type of learner and have such different personalities.

For her hands-on learning means getting kids fully into their own learning.

“The students have LOVED being in charge of their own learning and finding different solutions than classmates. I feel like hands on learning opens up possibilities for students. When learning is engaging they are eager and come back for more. This type of learning also leads down paths that I often couldn't have planned myself. Sometimes the very best lessons have been student led.”



**Jessica Heckman**  
**Engage Teacher**  
**Birmingham Covington School, Bloomfield Hills, MI, USA**

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Although Jessica Heckman has won a Henry Ford Teacher Innovator of the year prize and has had her classroom featured on edutopia.org, she holds her relationships with her students and colleagues as some of her greatest treasures.

For the last five years, she has been teaching Engage STEM classes in Birmingham Public Schools and working on expanding our district's commitment to developing some of the best project-based learning based on innovation and creativity. She is a certified Microsoft Innovative Educator and loves bringing everything from Minecraft to coding and robotics to her classroom. She works to foster an inclusive STEAM environment by starting enrichment clubs for girl's coding, LEGO® robotics and Minecraft clubs. She may have a different color hair every semester but her commitment to creativity and closing the STEM gap never waivers.



**Jessica Muller**  
**Prep-Year 10 Digital Technologies Teacher**  
**Injune P-10 State School, Injune, Queensland, Australia**

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Jessica Muller is a passionate educator that believes education is about building relationships that spark a desire to learn new knowledge, skills and habits. She has worked as a teacher in small, rural schools across prep to year ten. Jessica began using LEGO products with students through a school outreach role whilst studying at university. This valuable experience allowed her to build skills in the teaching of STEM areas. Jessica pioneered standalone "STEAM" and "Robotics" classes in her teaching role. She hopes to continue her professional development in these crucial areas, with a focus on developing STEM skills in the lower primary school. Jessica was the 2018 LEGO® Education Teacher Award recipient from Australia.

“Education is about building relationships with students to spark in them a desire to learn new knowledge, skills and habits. I endeavour to teach through practical experiences and allowing the students’ creativity to guide the learning progression.”



**Jim Byrne**  
**Higher Level Teaching Assistant**  
**Montgomery Academy, Blackpool, Lancashire, U.K.**

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Jim Byrne is a Higher level Teaching Assistant at Montgomery Academy , Blackpool, UK. Jim has worked in the SEMH/Pastoral Department of his school since 2002. He supports students through out their five years at Montgomery Academy and uses LEGO® MINDSTORMS® and LEGO® Education programmes to enrich their learning experience.

“The impact on my pupils' learning using LEGO Education solutions, but particularly in my experience, Special Educational Needs students is humbling. I have worked with Autistic children who have developed their ability to interact with their peers by playing together, taking turns, follow peer instructions when building models/robots etc I have witnessed the leap in confidence of some of our female 'Roboteers' once they have 'Cracked' programming a colour sensor, for example, and then gone on to teach other students that skill. We know that LEGO can enhance any individuals problem-solving, creativity, organisation, communication skills etc and I see all of these impact on the learning and personal development of the students I support on a daily basis.”





**Joe Moseley**  
**STEM Coordinator**  
**The Cornerstone School, Ocala, FL, USA**

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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).



**Joe Slifka**  
**Technology Teacher**  
**LaBrae Local School District, Leavittsburg, OH, USA**

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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.

Joe'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.

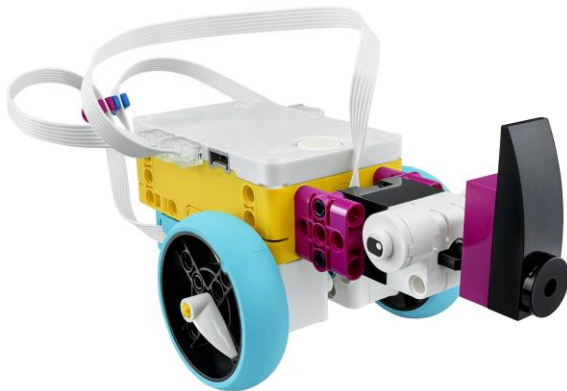


**Joe Williams**  
**STEM Instructor**  
**Revere Middle School, Akron, OH, USA**

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Joe Williams is a grade 6-8 STEM Instructor at Revere Middle School. Joe has been teaching STEM/Technology Education in the classroom for 23 years. He loves the endless learning possibilities LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 brings to the classroom.

Joe loves teaching students science, engineering and math through hands-on programs like the with EV3. Joe has 2 children, a wife and 4 cats. In his free time he can be found watching sports or coaching baseball, track and the middle school Soap Box Derby teams.





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

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Joey Tanaka is an EdTech and Robotics Specialist in the picturesque Capitol Hill area of Seattle. From humble roots fielding an FIRST® LEGO® League 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.



**John Giles**  
Robotics Teacher  
Glenridge Middle School, Orlando, FL, USA

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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.





**John Heffernan**  
**Technology Coordinator & Teacher**  
**Williamsburg Elementary Schools, Williamsburg, MA, USA**

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John Heffernan is a Technology Coordinator. For the last 15 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 [kidsengineer.com](http://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.



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

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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.





**John Thomas**  
**Classroom Teacher**  
**Wells Memorial School, Harrisville, NH, USA**

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John Thomas is an elementary educator as a second career and now has his principal's certification and was a part time principal before returning into the classroom.

John is a passionate educator who utilizes hands-on methods and technology for educating children.

He is a part-time blogger and community facilitator for Edutopia.org and has incorporated flexible seating methods in his classroom for over 12 years.

“I front load my classroom work with social emotional learning first, academics second and find that late in their first year with me, they make the shift to not needing SEL work and can really then take off academically. I utilize flexible seating and hands on methods to promote this SEL work and help a child learn how they learn and learn what they need to do their best. It is this self awareness that is so important at this young age so as they get older they can self advocate for themselves and their learning.”





**Joseph Bustillos**  
**STEAM Lab Educator**  
**HP Fitzgerald ES, North Las Vegas, NV, U.S.A.**

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Joe Bustillos has been using LEGO® in his classroom for the past four years after using other robotic platforms. “I love the combination of learning spacial and step-by-step instruction and creativity.” Joe’s background was mostly in media and virtual spaces, but nothing beats laying on the floor and building things with LEGO.

“Most of my 25-year teaching career has been with disadvantaged students and nothing beats hands on experiences to open the doors of learning, exploration and curiosity. The biggest challenge has tended to be having limited resources while trying to get as much time with hands-on experiences for my students. It's such a great tool for them to have their first experiences programming and building simple machines. I like to have a lot of hands-on experiences, let them explore and give them time to struggle a little following instructions so they gain some confidence learning how to problem-solve and work together.”



**Joshua Jordan**  
**Teacher**  
**North Forney High School, Forney, TX, USA**

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Josh Jordan is a high school English as a Second Language teacher and a researcher in the intersection of education, play, and linguistics. His work on roleplay in education and on analysis of game instructions have been received well in the US and Europe. Josh uses LEGO® and other hands-on, playful activities to help teens lower their affective filters and learn language more quickly and confidently.

“The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth. - Dan Rather”



**Justin Pembroke**  
**STEM & Digital Pedagogies Coach**  
**Chancellor State College, Sippy Downs, Queensland, Australia**

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Justin Pembroke is an enthusiastic and experienced coach with a demonstrated history of working in the education management industry. He is passionate about teaching, mentoring and motivating teachers within the field of digital technologies.

Justin is the president of a non for profit robotics association focused on delivering free teaching training to schools on the Sunshine Coast.

“LEGO® and programs like FIRST® LEGO® League are life changing. LEGO has always provided my students with a clear motivation to learn. Even the most simple lessons can have a huge impact as all students leave having experienced success. My teaching philosophy is centered around student lead learning. I am a firm believer in nurturing children's natural curiosity to solve problems and provide frequent opportunities for these learning experiences through instruction using a flipped classroom.”



**Karen Greer**  
**Home School Instructor**  
**Gallatin, TN, USA**

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





**Katelyn Kelly**  
**Math/Technology Teacher**  
**Sullivan West CSD, Lake Huntington, NY, USA**

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Katelyn Kelly has taught math and technology at Sullivan West CSD in upstate New York for 12 years.

She teaches three Project Lead the Way courses, Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Digital Electronics. Katelyn also provides math support for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. In addition to teaching, she is also the advisor for the LEGO®/Robotics club and the STEM Club.

Outside of work, Katelyn enjoys hiking and skiing.

“In a complicated world it is vital that we prepare our students to be complex problem solvers. I feel that every student will benefit from learning the engineering process, even if they don't become engineers. My goal as an educator is to provide my students with the skills they need to clearly define problems, develop creative solutions, and bring those solutions to life.”



**Kathy Frears**  
**Teacher**  
**Wiley Intermediate School, Watertown, NY, USA**

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After graduating from SUNY Potsdam in 1989, Kathy Frears obtained a training position at a National Bank where she was in charge of training all customer service employees.

Kathy decided to pursue her Master's of Science in Teaching Degree once her own children were enrolled in school. She accepted a fifth grade position at Wiley Intermediate School and have worked there for 17 years.

Besides teaching in the classroom, she has held many other positions including district thoughtful education trainer, FIRST® LEGO® League coach, after school robotics camp leader, mentor teacher, and curriculum adviser.

“Hands-on learning engages students in their education. They are no longer the passive participant but are actively engaged in the lesson. The teacher in this classroom creates lessons incorporating all of the learning styles and empowers students by helping them find value in learning.”



**Katherine Bostian**  
**ESL Teacher**  
**Knollwood Elementary, Salisbury, NC, USA**

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Katie Bostian taught Kindergarten for 12 years, 1st Grade for a year and she is currently also an ESL teacher.

She saw the influx of our EL population and felt it was important to learn ways to support this growing population so she added ESL to my license.

Katie is also a wife and mother of two teenagers. She enjoys bowling, fishing and traveling with her family.

“Confidence and creativity have improved as well as understanding the key details of a story. I have seen my students ability to communicate improve from the implementation of the LEGO as well as developing their ideas.”



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

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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.







**Katie Gardner**  
**Kindergarten / ESL Teacher**  
**Knollwood Elementary School, Salisbury, NC, USA**

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Katie Gardner has 7 years' experience as a Kindergarten English as a Second Language teacher in Salisbury, NC.

She has presented in district, state, regional and national technology, and TESOL conferences. Katie enjoys sharing ways to integrate technology and create innovative and engaging centers for English Language Learners based on the language domains.

“Children are not empty containers that need to be filled, but a box full of knowledge, perspective, and creativity that needs to be opened and shared with the world.” - Louise Cadwell.”



## **Katrice Hall**

**School Technology Facilitator and PreK-5 Technology Teacher**

**Westdale Height Academic Magnet Elementary School, Baton Rouge, LA, USA**

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Katrice Hall serves several roles. She is a loving mother, a doting wife, and a passionate educator.

As an educator for 15 years, Katrice Hall has taught and learned math, science, and technology using a hands-on, minds-on approach. She believes that children learn best by DOING. LEGO® Education is a DOING curriculum for ALL students. Katrice received a grant to create a dedicated LEGO® Lab space for students to design, build and code with LEGO.



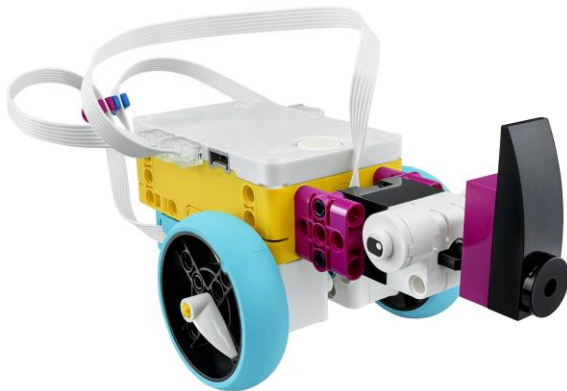


**Kelly Etlinger**  
**Special Education Teacher Multiple Disabilities Grade 4**  
**C. Richard Applegate School, Freehold, NJ, USA**

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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.





**Kevin Deissler**  
**Middle School STEM Teacher**  
**Klinger Middle School, Southampton, PA, USA**

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Kevin Deissler has been teaching with LEGO® for the past 7 years. Kevin was a mentor of two of his elementary school's FIRST® LEGO® League. He was responsible for bringing five FIRST LEGO League teams and five Junior teams to his district. Last year, he continued his mentorship at his new position as middle school STEM teacher. Kevin uses LEGO® MINDSTORMS NXT and EV3 robots in my STEM robotics classes, including utilizing the LEGO® Education Space set, previous FIRST LEGO League sets, and materials within his STEM lab to create functioning robots that solve everyday problems.

“Being a LEGO Education Master Educator, aside from just simply being an awesome title, would give me more credibility within my district to train and bring on more mentors in the world of FIRST LEGO League , but also help as we begin our exploration of bring STEM classes to our elementary schools. LEGO® is such a fundamental building block within education, that to be able to teach children of all ages with LEGO makes for a more exciting educational experience for all.”



**Kim White**  
**Associate Clinical Professor**  
**University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA**

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Kim White's career in education has taken her all over the U.S., teaching K-2 in urban, rural, and suburban schools.

After earning an Ed.D. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from the University of Georgia, Kim taught in higher education in Georgia, Indiana, Washington, and Kentucky.

Play-based learning and developmentally appropriate practice have been the cornerstones of her work.

**“Children learn best when they are actively engaged in their learning. Being able to explore, observe, question, experiment, and wonder are essential experiences for all children. Creating a classroom environment to support this type of learning is not easy for many teachers because they think all control will be lost. It has been my mission as a professor to show teachers just how counterproductive this thinking truly is, because the more engaged, active, and playful the learning, the fewer issues occur.”**



**Kimberly Lane Clark**  
**Director of Blended Learning**  
**Lancaster ISD, Lancaster, TX, USA**

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Kimberly Lane Clark began her career in educational technology 11 years ago gaining experience teaching students in grades K-12 in Mississippi and Texas. She coaches hundreds of educators- both face to face and virtually in Computer Science, Project-Based Learning (PBL), STEM strategies, and Educational Technology.

In the latter part of her years in education she also served as a campus technology coordinator. Kimberly has also served as a technology consultant for School House 21 since 2011.

She currently serves as a technology consultant for Educate Texas, serves as the city lead for Black Tech Women in Dallas, TX, and she serves as a guest technology consultant for the Global Academic Technology Essentials Teacher Institute at Mississippi State University



**Kristen Fulgenzio**  
**Fourth grade teacher**  
**Burgettstown Area Elementary Center, Burgettstown, PA, USA**

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Kristen Fulgenzio is very passionate about the maker movement and STEM/STEAM education.

She created her own after school STEAM club for girls, A.T.T.A. Girl! (ambitious, talented, tenacious, and authentic), to promote gender equality in the STEAM fields. Kristen says that the best part of her job is when a student says the phrase, “Miss Fulgenzio, look what I created!”

“I believe that every student can create. We might not all be on the same level in math or read at the same pace as each other, but when it comes to letting our inquiry drive our imagination we are all one. I grew up playing with LEGO® with my older brother and I never knew how powerful LEGO were in education until recently. I LOVE learning alongside my students when we create with LEGO because most of the time they are the ones who are inspiring and teaching me.”



**Kristin Williams-Luthi**  
**Teacher**  
**Harbins Elementary, Dacula, GA, USA**

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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.







**Kristy Gilpin**  
Teacher  
Rollins Place Elementary, Zachary, LA, USA

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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.





**Laura Knapp**  
**K-5 Technology Teacher**  
**Gateway Science Academy South Charter School, St. Louis, MO, USA**

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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.





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

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Laurie Condon 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.



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

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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.





**Lindsay Foster**  
**Learning Technologies Coach**  
**Burleson ISD, Burleson, TX, USA**

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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.



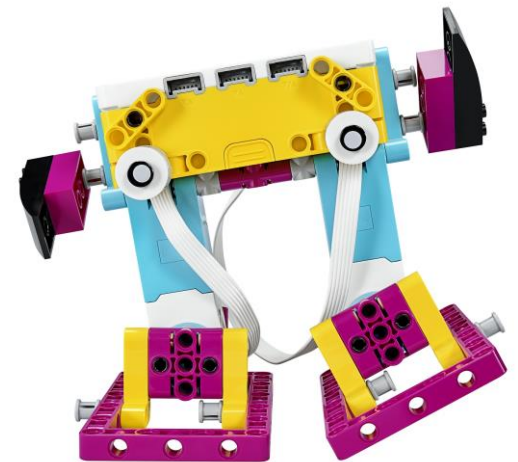


**Lisbon Brown**  
**Math Coach**  
**Lukeville Upper Elementary, Brusly, LA, USA**

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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.

Lisbon 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.





**Maggie Cox**  
**Teacher**  
**Desert Pines High School, Las Vegas, NV, USA**

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Maggie Cox is a CTE teacher with a sports medicine background. She is a strong leader in her district and has networked beyond her school to support her passions including STEM education.

Maggie was nominated for a second year for the Heart of Education Award this year. She utilizes the education four C's as she designs and reflect on her lessons; critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creation.

Maggie believes we need to develop students creative process so they can continue to adapt to a rapidly changing workforce. She believes STEM is CTE and we need to continue to allow students time to process through problems and create solutions so they are ready for future careers.

“I utilize the education four C's as I design and reflect on my lessons; critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creation. I think we need to develop students creative process so they can continue to adapt to a rapidly changing workforce. I believe STEM is CTE and we need to continue to allow them time to process through problems and create solutions so they are ready for future careers.”



**Mandy Collins**  
**Instructional Coach**  
**Pucketts Mill Elementary, Dacula, GA, USA**

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Mandy Collins is a fourth generation public school educator who has dedicated her career to teaching all students about creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

For the past eleven years, she has also had the pleasure of coaching award winning FIRST® LEGO® League teams and providing mentorships to many elementary teams in the state of Georgia. The kids will tell you Mrs. Collins' laughter can be heard down the hallway and that her philosophy is where there is laughter, there is learning.

“Of the 110 students I have coached in FIRST LEGO League, 100% have attended college, there have 2 Valedictorians in the bunch, various scholarships earned including Space Camp and all but one student (can you believe that one writer in the group-ha ha) has entered into a field of science, math or technology.”





**Margo Jantzi**  
**Teacher Librarian**  
**Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Harrisonburg, VA, USA**

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Margo Jantzi is serving students in grades PreK-grade 5 in their Title I school library. Her mantra, “Read Widely, Think Deeply, Act Kindly”, is at the core of what she does every day.

As a Nationally Board Certified teacher, Margo loves to integrate technology with her students. She witnesses rookie teams go to states in FIRST® LEGO® League Robotics competitions.

Authentic learning adventures are at the core of her lessons.

“I love to witness students taking learning to a deeper level. They are so fully engaged in their learning as well. I love to integrate hands on learning in our library lessons. Hour of Code lessons in December are so positive. Stop motion video using LEGO® is also a hit with our students. They love creating book trailers to post on our YouTube channel. Our outdoor gardening projects bring science concepts alive.”



**Maria A. Garcia**  
**Elementary Teacher**  
**Hope St. Elementary, Huntington Park, CA, USA**

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Maria Garcia is an educator with 19 years of experience in upper elementary; primarily in 5th grade.

Maria is a lifelong learner and attends professional development opportunities that will build her proficiency so that she can better serve my students in the classroom.

“My teaching philosophy is that all students are unique and have different learning styles and needs. My job is to provide a welcoming and positive learning environment in which all students can and will learn with enriching hands on curriculum.”



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

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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.



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

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Mary Meadows is the 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.



## **Mary Alice Hudson**

**Design Teacher**

**Snipes Academy of Arts and Design, Wilmington, NC, USA**

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Mary Alice Hudson is a National Board Certified Teacher and lifelong learner from North Carolina, who has recently completed a doctoral degree in Educational Technology at Boise State University.

The focus of her doctoral research was using educational robotics with elementary-aged students to develop computational thinking skills and an interest in STEM subjects and careers. Mary Alice has recently changed schools and been given the opportunity to put her ideas into action.

She is currently teaching Design (a cross between EdTech and STEM) to all of the students in her K-5 Title I school. She is loving the opportunity to help students become knowledgeable and persistent thinkers and creators.

Mary Alice's long-term goals are big and ill-defined, but they involve using technology to creating systemic change in K-12 public education.



**Melinda Caudill**  
**STLP Coordinator (Student Technology Leadership Program)**  
**Liberty Elementary, Lexington, KY, USA**

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Melinda Caudill has been a teacher in Fayette County for 16 years. During that time Melinda taught in grades K, 1, and 2 as well as in primary intervention. During those 16 years Melinda has taken on many leadership roles, her favorite thing to do is STLP. She has been a STLP leader for more years than she can remember with several State Championship wins for her school.

Melinda has experience with robotics and helped serve at a robotics camp at Hayes Middle school several years ago. Through these leadership positions she has learned how to problem solve, work with others, and manage/organize lots of information.

“I love project based learning! I think in order to make connections and make content make sense you have to be involved, use your hands, and problem solve. LEGO® makes that so easy! Every child can learn! You just have to find the right way to engage them and motivate them!”



**Melissa Dills**  
**Technology Integration Specialist**  
**Lake Local Schools, Hartville, OH, USA**

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Melissa Dills is a technology integration specialist in Northeast Ohio. She loves using technology to inspire students to collaborate and problem solve. She finds that integrating technology in today's education is vital to preparing students for their futures.

“I have noticed a huge increase in engagement with our students when they use LEGO® WeDo 2.0. Students can easily see a correlation between lessons and real life examples when they have the ability to build and then program a creation to mirror what they see in real life. I'm amazed by their creativity!”

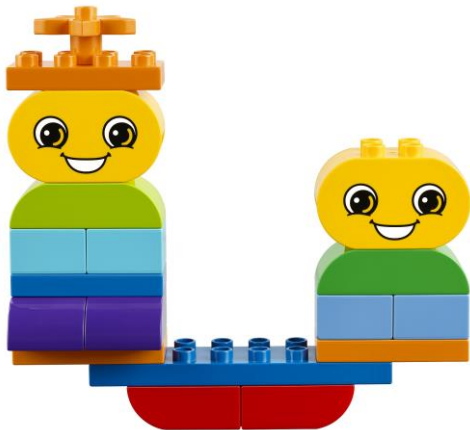


**Melissa Edmonds**  
**Gifted Education Resource Teacher**  
**Kyle R. Wilson Elementary, Woodbridge, VA, USA**

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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.







**Michael Jacobson**  
**Library Media Specialist**  
**Legacy High School, Bismarck, ND, USA**

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Michael Jacobson is a husband and father of two, and has been an educator for ten years in both elementary and secondary.

His passion for STEM education has led him in a direction of teaching students with the use of LEGO® Education products.

Most notably, Michael has been a FIRST® LEGO® League coach/mentor and city-wide volunteer for the past 5 years. He has been invited to and attended the Mickelson Exxon Mobil Teachers Academy, where he learned so much about inquiry based education, and he has recently graduated from Florida State University with his Masters of Informational Sciences degree.

Michael's passion for teaching and library media create a perfect bond to host multiple learning experiences through the school's newly developed Maker Space, "The Cyber Hub."



**Mike Bennett**  
**Head of Computing**  
**Caldicott, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire, U.K.**

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Mike Bennett is Computing lead and a STEAM teacher at Caldicott in Buckinghamshire where many enjoy taking part in FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST LEGO League Jr. and the school's own CLL competition. As well as using LEGO® he has an interest in Makerspaces and ways to combine technology, creativity, 3D printers, laser cutters and duct tape.

“I’d like to be a LEGO® Education Master Educator as I believe in the products, I use them creatively and passionately every day at work and enjoy the fun and sense of achievement it gives my students. I’d like to share some of our ideas with others, learn from a wider community and help make it even better. LEGO is a great educational tool. It is familiar, flexible and fun!”



**Mindy Bissett**  
**Gifted and Talented Facilitator**  
**Seventh Street Elementary, North Little Rock, AR, USA**

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Mindy Bissett teaches kindergarten enrichment. These 30 minute lessons are designed to find gifted and talented youth.

Mindy also pulls out 1st through 5th grade students that are identified as gifted and talented and provide services to them. She gets to design curriculum that they are interested in. Mindy also teaches high level math to all of my students. One of her favorite parts about being a teacher is seeing the light bulb go off in a child.





## **Mindy Freeman Rosen**

**STEM Coach**

**Palmetto Elementary, West Palm Beach, FL, USA**

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Mindy Freeman Rosen is a career educator specializing in the integration of STEM into the curriculum using robotics, coding and hands-on experiences. Through these learning engagements she supports teachers in a transdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning.

Mindy has conducted professional development at both the state and district level using strategies of engagement for both adult and student learners which can be applied to any subject area. As a STEM Coach she helps to infuse STEM into the Inter baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

She provide professional development for the teachers and then model and co-teach in the classroom to support the teachers and students in their learning.

“Hands-on learning is learning by doing and increases engagement and retention. I integrate hands-on learning through STEM investigations, using WeDO 2.0 as well as other LEGO®, science experiments, games, research and products or projects based on the research.”



## **Nancy Penchev**

**Lab Instructor and Instructional Technology Coordinator  
Scheck Hillel Community Day School, North Miami Beach, FL, USA**

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Nancy Penchev has over 20 years experience in the classroom. She loves helping kids find their passion, whether it moviemaking, LEGO®, robotics, or Maker...then using those passions to showcase their learning. She has experience in K-5 with all subjects. Nancy loves helping fellow teachers discover how to assess learning using hands-on learning.

“Students know technology, but they don’t know how to leverage it for learning. They are afraid of failures and are uncomfortable making mistakes and trying new things if they are not assured of success. In my room we celebrate mistakes because it is just a small part of the learning process. If you visit my room and kids are coding or making you will hear them call out I made a mistake and people cheer because that means we learned something to apply going forward.”



## **Naomi Harm**

**Women Leadership Coach/Mentor and NGSS and STEM Specialist  
Cave Creek Unified School District, Cave Creek, AZ, USA**

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Naomi Harm is an instigator of STEM innovation, and an educational technology thought leader and influencer.

She welcomes every opportunity to share her expertise of women in educational leadership and brain-based instructional approaches, supported with technology literacy best practices with k12 students and educational leaders worldwide.

Her current professional facilitated offerings include mentoring young girls and women to pursue passion-driven STEM careers, coding and robotics theme-based literacy activities, global engineering derbies infused with NGSS problem-solving student-centered challenges, modelling women in leadership coaching/mentoring best practices, redesigning classroom learning spaces with the brain in mind to support the student-centered classroom, and maximizing creativity, communication and collaboration with the Google Suite of learning tools infused with student choice and voice media projects.



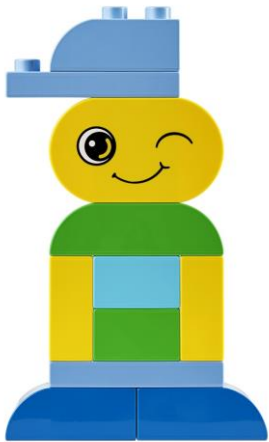
**Nichole Aryanpur**  
**Instructor & PLC Lead**  
**Pioneer Heritage Middle School, Frisco, TX, USA**

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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.





**Nicole Ortiz**  
**Special Education LEGO Robotics Teacher**  
**JHS 227, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

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Nicole Ortiz has been teaching for over ten years in the NYC Department of Education, and teaching LEGO® Robotics for seven years. She uses a variety of LEGO® Education products including the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3, EV3 Space Challenge, NXT, LEGO® Education WeDo, WeDo 2.0, Simple Machines, Simple and Motorized Mechanisms, and the Pneumatic and Renewable Energy Add-On sets.

Nicole teaches LEGO Robotics full time to Special Ed. students who never want to leave at the end of the period. Though her students have a range of academic and social disabilities, they are able to learn Science, Math, technology, and engineering skills by thinking creatively, and having fun using LEGO Education products.

Nicole thinks the biggest challenge facing her students is being perceived as slow or incapable of learning, because they have learning disabilities. Her Special Education students can learn just like any other student, just in a different way.





**Pam Seales**  
**Faculty**  
**University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA**

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Pamela Seales joined the faculty at the University of Kentucky in the Curriculum and Instruction Department in 2014. Her previous eight-year post as a Researcher involved supervising and evaluating classrooms around the state of Kentucky with the Reading First Federal program through the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development. During that time she also served back-to-back four-year terms as Vice Chair, elected to the Jessamine County Board of Education. She earned a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Geneseo State University, and a Masters Degree in Reading and Literacy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and in Wisconsin she began her teaching career leading a combined third and fourth grade classroom.

“Hands-on learning allows every student to be actively responsible for their own understanding of the content at hand. For my college classes, hands-on learning is key in helping the future teachers to know and completely understand literacy strategies/skills in order to teach these to their future students. Collaboration and engagement are encouraged as the students participate in the hands-on activities and learning exercises to help each and every participant fully comprehend the information presented. Hands-on learning permits students to be engaged in learning, provides introspection, and an individual responsibility for their own performance, thus supporting my philosophy of teaching.”



**Patricia Chung**  
**Elementary Teacher**  
**Hope St. Elementary, Huntington Park, CA, USA**

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Patricia Chung is an educator with 20 years of experience. The majority of her experience is in 2nd and 5th grades.

She has taught in Hawaii and in Southern California. Patricia believes hands-on learning is the most effective way to reach students and makes the learning most meaningful. It allows for students to connect and therefore retain what they learn.

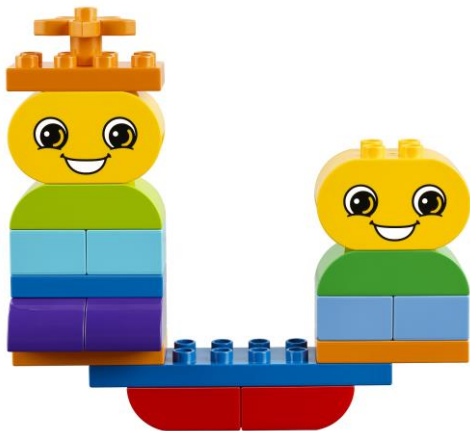




**Peggy Reimers**  
**Director of Professional Development**  
**TCEA, Austin, TX, USA**

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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.





**Phil Capasso**  
**K-8 STEM Coach**  
**Colts Neck Township Schools, Colts Neck NJ, USA**

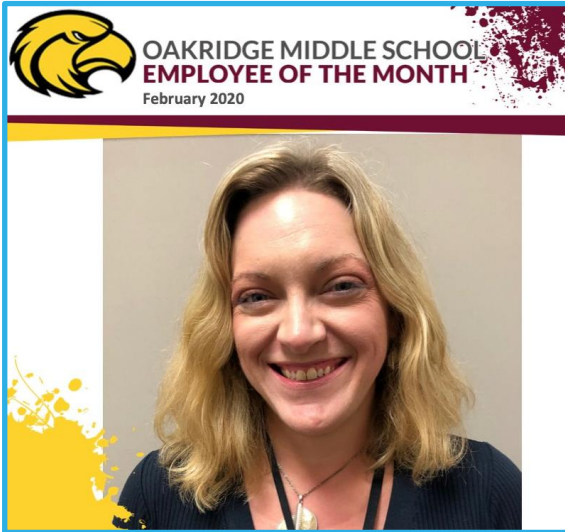
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Phil Capasso started his educational career teaching TV Production at the high school and intermediate school levels. He then transitioned to teaching a Technology & Engineering Design Lab utilizing a former woodshop.

In his current role as STEM Coach he assists teachers with technology integration, new program rollout and lesson enhancement.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Technology Education from The College of New Jersey, a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction: Technology from Grand Canyon University and a Supervisory Certificate from Rowan University.

He served on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Technology and Engineering Educators Association and has been a Level 1 and 2 Google Certified Educator for the past six years.



**Rebecca Bridges**  
**8th Grade English/ Social Studies Teacher**  
**Oakridge Middle School, Clover, SC, USA**

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Rebecca Bridges will enter her tenth year in education. She works as an eighth grade English and Social Studies teacher with a passion for the connection of project-based learning and STEM.

Rebecca is a former staff writer and reporter for community newspapers in North Carolina. She is also a published author in literary journals.

“I think the two biggest problem facing students today depends on the type of school culture is apathy. We have to come up with ways constantly to make learning relevant and to motivate them with a reason to care. Dig in the mud with the students rather than walk above them because only by planting the seed with the students, rather than for, will they learn.”



**Rebecca Gerdes**  
**Media Specialist & Librarian**  
**Port Allen Elementary, Port Allen, LA, USA**

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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.





**Rebecca Gorlin**  
**2nd Grade Teacher/ Robotics instruction**  
**Saint Brendan School, Bothell, WA, USA**

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Rebecca Gorlin is a 2nd grade teacher who loves LEGO® and loves sharing that with her class.

Rebecca's school purchased kits to use and it grew into a huge program. They have a quarter of the school who are part of their after school robotics program that Rebecca runs and coaches.

“I believe LEGO® Education offers so much to all levels of students. I have seen the excitement students show for LEGO and how much they learn. Not only are they learning coding, they are learning about being creative, overcoming challenges on their own, fine motor skills, science aspects and working together as a team. I love what LEGO Education does for kids and I want to be as much a part of it as I can!”



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

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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.







**Rita Thurston**  
**K-5 STEM Teacher**  
**North Barrington Elementary School, North Barrington, IL, USA**

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Rita Thurston is an elementary STEM Teacher in Barrington CUSD 220, located in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Teaching since 2011, Rita initially was a middle school science, math and STEM teacher prior to taking on her current role at the elementary level. Prior to teaching, Rita was a Materials Engineer and worked for several years in research and development in industry.

Rita's passion is to help students in grades K-5 develop an interest and identity in STEM through hands-on, inquiry-based lessons in engineering, robotics and programming. She thoroughly enjoys teaching the engineering design process to students ages 6-11 as well as helping them develop the communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking skills, as well as perseverance, to be the problem-solvers and leaders of the future.



## **Robert Holcomb**

**Lower School Technology/Robotics Teacher, Technology and Engineering Lead  
Providence School of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL, USA**

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Robert Holcomb is an energetic educator and LEGO® lover. His collection of LEGO products and mini figures is a welcoming beacon into his classroom.

Robert loves to challenge students with hands on problem solving using a variety of LEGO® Education products.

He has two LEGO competition tables in his classroom and loves to show off his student's creativity by having them build race cars and battle bots.

Robert is an FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. Jr. coach, FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. coach, and just signed up to be an FIRST® Tech Challenge coach.

He's been teaching technology and robotics for 7 years and is dedicated to helping educators gain confidence in using hands on technology in their classrooms.

Robert is the department head for the Technology and Engineering department at his school and is very motivated to help others be successful.



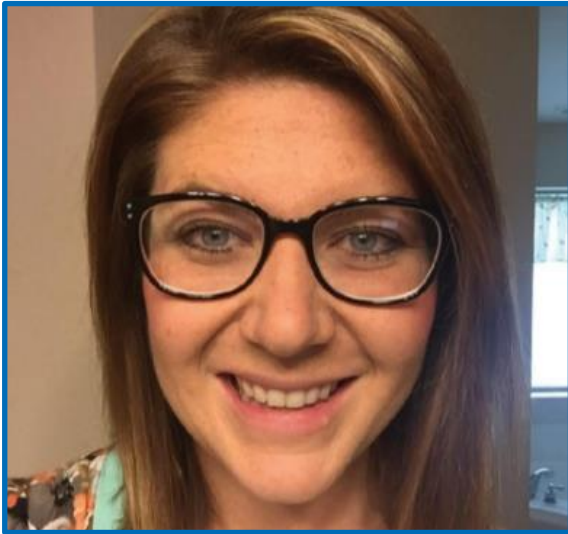
**Sam Yancey**  
**Gifted Education Specialist**  
**Bethel Elementary School, Canton, NC, USA**

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Sam Yancey is a gifted education specialist with a passion for challenging his gifted and talented students with innovative, maker-focused STEAM learning experiences. Sam enjoys teaching with LEGO® Education resources as a way to enhance problem-solving abilities, strengthen spatial reasoning, cultivate perseverance, and encourage effective collaboration.

His projects center on robotics, coding, engineering, product development, and game design. He is committed to expanding access to STEAM education, especially for students from rural backgrounds. To stay inspired, Sam is beginning to train fellow educators about effective STEAM/EdTech implementation and also makes time for testing the newest EdTech.

“Students using LEGO® Education solutions has increased student abilities to solve complex problems while displaying the grit to stick with these challenges. In addition, students have learned to really relish a difficult build and the tinkering involved in finding the best, most efficient code. Furthermore, students have developed confidence and can now effectively respond to failures and setbacks.”



**Sarah Phelps**  
**Elementary Computer Science Teacher**  
**C.A. Henning Elementary School, Troy, IL, USA**

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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.





## Scott Hatfield

**Technology/Computer Applications Teacher & School Technology Coordinator  
Eastside Middle School, Mt. Washington, KY, USA**

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Scott Hatfield, a proud educator who has developed the technology curriculum for Eastside Middle School over the last 16 years. In that time, his class and the technology has changed significantly but Scott is passionate about bringing the technological future to his students.

He currently teaches a Computer Applications course, a course that encourages students to tinker, explore, and problem-solve using LEGO® Robotics. When not teaching, Scott can be found in his home workshop tinkering or spending time outside with his family.

“I believe a classroom is a place where everyone one should be learning from each other, teacher and students alike. I also believe that nothing makes learning more permanent than doing. If you want to learn how to do something, do it, and even better than that is to teach someone else how to do it.”



**Scott Hodges**  
**Director of STEM Development**  
**Kenosha School of Technology, Kenosha, WI, USA**

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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!





**Scott Reece**  
**Technology Education Teacher**  
**Teasley Middle School, Canton, GA, USA**

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This is Scott Reece's 23rd year of teaching middle school in his hometown. Scott lives just 3 miles from the home that he grew up in and this is his community. After spending sixteen years teaching middle school math and social studies, he was given the opportunity to move to the technology lab and he has never regretted the move!

This is where he was introduced to LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education and found the passion for teaching that he remembered from his early years as an educator. LEGO® have become a daily part of his classroom from building Simple Machines to coding with the MINDSTORMS robots.

Scott loves that his job is getting kids to learn from play and become problem solvers.

“My goal as an educator is to encourage students to be problem solvers. I'm less interested in your memorization of facts and more concerned that when given any type of problem, you know where to go for information and how to come up with a solution.”



**Sean Arnold**  
**STEM Coach**  
**District 75 Citywide Programs, New York, NY, USA**

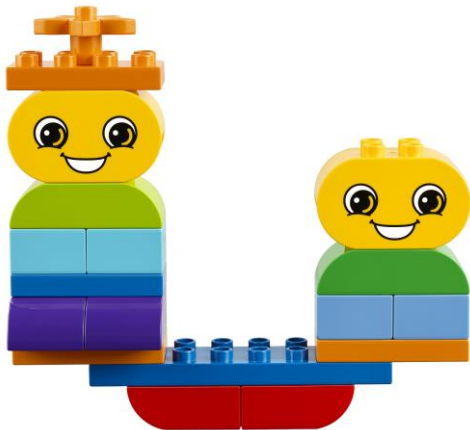
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Sean Arnold is a special educator and STEM coach who has taught in New York City's District 75 citywide special needs program since 2005.

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 FIRST® 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 [BraveInTheAttempt.com](http://BraveInTheAttempt.com).







**Shaun Mitchell**  
**LEGO Lead Teacher**  
**Endon High School, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, U.K.**

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Shaun Mitchell is the Director For Teaching and Learning for Design and Technology at Endon High School in Staffordshire.

Shaun has a passion for design, robotics, programming, 3D printing and engineering passions that his students share and have adopted producing creative technological solutions to real world problems.

Allowing his students to become creators not just consumers. Shaun has great success working with multiple teams from Primary to High school in the FIRST® LEGO League program and has recently won a Local Hero's award for his services to education. He advocates for STEM and loves sharing best practices and innovative ideas with others.

“It is my belief that the classroom environment should be a safe place for exploration and creativity. It is a living community and that everyone contributes to in order to maintain a positive and fun atmosphere. All students are individuals and everyone learns in their own unique way and giving the pupils a range of tools to explore their creativity in their own way is key to their development and their success.”



**Shelby Lee**  
**STEM Teacher**  
**East Washington Elementary School, Pekin, IN, U.S.A.**

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Shelby Lee a STEM Elementary Lab Facilitator, was born and raised in Indiana, and has returned to her alma mater, East Washington Schools to teach.

Like a lot of people, Shelby remembers playing and building with LEGO® as a young child. She now enjoys teaching and coaching students through the engineering design process with a medium that so many of them know and love.

She has a passion for STEM education and primary education. Her spirit animal is Ms. Frizzle.

“I think one of the biggest challenges is the pressure students face to succeed. I try my best to teach students what to do when they fail, and that failing is not always a bad thing. There is so much to be learned from failing and "messaging up.”



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

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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 start-ups 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 LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education NXT for grades 4-5 and formed a competitions team with FIRST® LEGO® League. 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.



**Stacy L. Dzbenski**  
**Librarian / Media Specialist**  
**Lutacaga Elementary School, Othello, WA, USA**

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Stacy Dzbenski is a K-6 Librarian at a Dual Language school in Othello, Washington.

She is currently enrolled at Boise State University in their Ed.S. program in Educational Technology, and will graduate in 2019. Stacy is passionate about STEAM in the classroom and Educational Technology, and has applied to continue in the Ed.D program after graduation. Stacy loves to teach students about robotics and coding and use LEGO® Design Thinking in her classroom. Putting a Makerspace in the library has been amazing and she received an award from her school district for her efforts in STEAM.

“Hands-on learning means putting the tools in the students hands and letting them learn through doing. Hands-on learning is my primary instructional method. I generally give the students an introduction to the tool, and explain what they are trying to achieve. Without giving them step-by-step instructions, I allow them to work with the tool and learn through their successes and failures.”



**Steve Springer**  
Physical Education Teacher, Tech Coach  
Rhea Elementary, Paris, TN, USA

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Steve Springer has been teaching physical education for 11 years and has been working with LEGO® Education WeDo at camps in the summers at Murray State University for 9 years.

Steve wants to be a Master Educator because, “I love teaching kids, LEGO® and when a child “gets it” for the first time, seeing their face and eyes light up is so fulfilling and rewarding for both me and the student.”





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

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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.





**Terry Price**  
**Teacher**  
**Desert Pines High School, Las Vegas, NV, USA**

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Terry Price is a passionate teacher who loves to learn and lead by example. Terry is pursuing a National Board Certification this year as well as adding additional Robotics courses to her teaching schedule. She believes in the LEGO® model of having fun while learning.

“My teaching philosophy is every student wants to learn and learning by doing is one of the best ways to learn. I am a big supporter of hands-on learning. Every component I teach has a hands-on approach or simulation involved.”



## **Theresa Goeckner**

**Teacher**

**Desert Pines High School, Las Vegas, NV, USA**

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Theresa Goeckner is passionate about having fun while learning.

She has taught STEM classes and now teaches Video Production.

Her Advanced students create and produce a weekly news broadcast. LEGO®

learning is incorporated into her lesson planning as she believes learning should be fun.

“My teaching philosophy is to help student come to understand that learning is life-long, that there is always a way to have fun by learning something, even if it is go kayaking or hiking. Learning is how to work with people. Learning is finding meaning in what is chosen to do in life. I always tell my students as they prepare to think about what their career in life will be: "Find something you are passionate about and then go for it! " Because if you don't choose something you really like doing, then you will find ways to not learn about it.”





**Theresa Goltermann**  
**Teacher**  
**Tabb Middle School, Yorktown, VA, USA**

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Theresa Goltermann is a 30-year veteran teacher of Middle School Science and STEM elective classes. She brought STEM electives to her school district seven years ago by proposing and writing curriculum for the Middle School Engineering and Computer Science Classes.

Theresa is committed to personalizing education through choice by using innovative design thinking projects, global collaborations, and educational tech tools such as robots, AR/VR, and digital journals to engage all learners.

In addition to her STEM and Career and Tech Ed elective classes.

Theresa also coaches extracurricular STEM programs including Girls Who Code, FIRST® LEGO® League Robotics, and SeaPerch ROV.

She was the 2018 Virginia Region 2 Teacher of the Year.

“Central to my teaching philosophy and instructional methods are three core beliefs: make learning fun, foster purposeful relationships, and empower students to be life-long learners. I am developing the next generation of STEM innovators and makers. My passion for science and engineering is obvious as I learn alongside my students working through practical and engaging projects with them; always with a focus on their aspirations for career and life skills.”

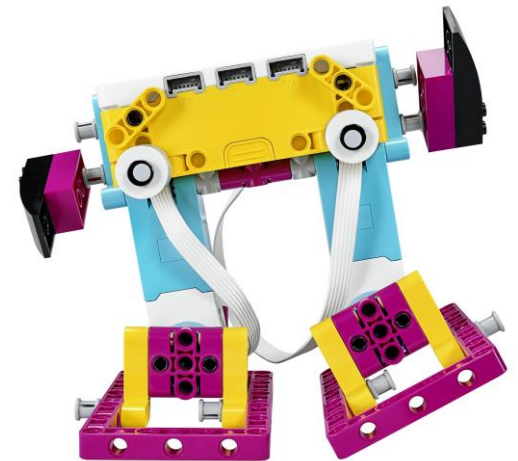


**Tomika Altman-Lewis**  
**5th Grade LEAP Teacher**  
**Seawell Elementary School, Chapel Hill, NC, USA**

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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.





**Tonya Robbins**  
**General Education Teacher K-6**  
**Reeds Elementary, Lexington, NC, USA**

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Tonya Robbins is in a profession that she loves and have dreamed about since she was a little girl.

Tonya was a stay at home mom until both her girls started school and then she worked in the school system and went back and got her teaching degree.

Dreams may not always come true when or how we expect, but they do come true in ways beyond what we imagined.

Tonya has a grandson in the school where she teach and she loves coming to work every day.

“I believe that every child should be seen as an individual with strengths and weaknesses unique to them. I believe that every child can grow as a learner and it is my responsibility to find the path to best help that student achieve to their ability and beyond. I believe every child should know it is ok to fail, that we only become failures when we quit trying.”



**Travis Russell**  
**STEAM Lead Teacher**  
**Chatsworth School, Reisterstown, MD, USA**

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Travis Russell is an avid reader and lifelong learner. He believes all students should be challenged and cared for each day. Each students should be given equal and equitable opportunities to meet high expectations.

Travis believes if he shows up each day engaged and excited about his lessons that his students will benefit and return the energy. He also believe that hands-on learning is very beneficial to his students and one of the best strategies for learning. Travis enjoys being outdoors and working with his hands around his house to improve or fix things. Travis love spending time with his friends and family.





**Tzvi Hametz**  
**Director of Innovation and Creativity**  
**Gindi Maimonides Academy, Los Angeles, CA, USA**

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Tzvi Hametz is the Creativity and Innovation Specialist, Educational Technology Director, and the manager of the Innovation Lab (a Makerspace) at Gindi Maimonides Academy in Los Angeles, CA. Tzvi is a lifelong tinkerer, Maker, learner, and illustrator.

Similar to many other Makers, Tzvi got his start by creating LEGO® inventions and repurposing things in his parents' home; even things his parents really wanted to be kept whole. In addition to teaching in the classroom, Tzvi is a teacher and a teacher coach for integrating technology, playful learning, and creativity in the classroom.

Tzvi has been working in education for 10 years in and out of the classroom.

“I don't have a single teaching philosophy because I don't teach one type of student. I like to pick and chose from established and experimental methodologies to see what works best. That being said I certainly lean towards a constructivist and constructivism approach.”



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

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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.





## **Nate Dias**

**Cover Supervisor / Science Teacher**

**Outwood Academy Valley, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, U.K.**

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Nate Dias has been working in schools for over 12 years. As a qualified science teacher he uses LEGO® bricks to inspire students in all manner of STEM subjects. Nate may appear familiar to you, you might recognise him from Channel 4's LEGO MASTERS.

“Let children take chances and the rewards are far greater than if you hold their hands all the way. We learn more from our mistakes than from our successes. When teaching science, it is incredibly important for students to get hands on experience. It bridges the gap between hearing and understanding.”



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