

August 2016

GET INVOLVED



The DiSTI Duffer Charity Golf Tournament will be held on October 8th at The Country Club at Deer Run Golf Course. For information on how to register to be a player or sponsor, or donate auction items, visit www.distiduffer.org. Support STEM education of our students to help inspire them to pursue STEM careers and be part of the workforce of tomorrow.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CENTRAL FLORIDA FAIR

The [Central Florida Fair](#) was one of the first Fairs in the country to introduce [STEM programs](#) and events during

the annual Fair. The popular LEGO Block Party Extravaganza, a Math Bee, exhibits of local STEM education organizations and more offer the community opportunities to learn about programs and resources available all year round.

The Fair was founded in 1910 to celebrate and showcase the critical agricultural industry in Central Florida. Although many know the Fair because of the ride on the Midway, the heart of the Fair is the celebration of accomplishments in STEM areas such as Food Arts & Sciences, Horticulture, and livestock. Also showcased are key organizations such as FFA (Future Farmers of America) and 4-H which provide education, experience and leadership training in landscaping, veterinary care, animal husbandry, farming and more.

The Fair annually awards [college scholarships](#) to graduating high school seniors and provides endowments to support students at University of Florida, Seminole State and Valencia College. To date, more than \$1 million dollars in financial aid have been provided!

CF STEM General Council Meeting Recap - STEM & Agriculture

Projections are that more than 58,000 high skill agriculture-related jobs will open up in the next few years. The workforce pipeline though will not meet that demand. That was highlighted at the recent Council meeting. From the growing use of drones, satellite data, and software used by [Highland Precision Ag](#) to genetics, tissue culturing and high tech greenhouses in plant propagation critical to [AgriStarts](#), the need for all areas of STEM skills was highlighted. The challenges and skills needed to effectively manage one of our most important natural resources—water—were highlighted by the [St. Johns River Water Management District](#).

Educators and graduates of local high schools with agriculture and/or veterinary medicine programs shared their insights about the changing and rapidly growing world of STEM in Ag. They highlighted the surprising range of opportunities available to graduates who have STEM skills and knowledge.



AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

- Explore FFA, Career Development and more on [Pinterest!](#)
- Read up on STEM Food & Ag Council with the [STEM connector](#)



Special Thanks to our Panelists:

Industry Panel: **Danny Kushner-**, Highland Precision Ag, **Suzanne Archer-**St. John's Water Management District, **Wade Hammond-**AgriStarts, Inc.



Educator /Student Panel: **Kim Acton-**University High School, **Samantha Dodge-**East River High School, **Britany Wolford-**Junior at Perdue University (agriculture graduate from New Smyrna HS), **Jeremy D'Angelo-**Kansas State (Deland HS graduate)

Guest Speaker: **Stefany Deckard-**Florida Department of Education

STEM Connections

August 2016 (continued)

STEM @ FLORIDA HOSPITAL EAST ORLANDO

The [Florida Hospital East Orlando](#) (CF STEM Board Member) campus provided a three-day STEM summer enrichment program to twenty-one talented Orange County public high schoolers in July. The objective of the STEM Scholars Program was to teach the students about preventative health and diabetes care and management. Students worked in the Center for Medical Simulation, toured both the pediatric and adult emergency departments and talked with the clinical staff about various medical careers.



The hospital hopes the students will become teen health coaches after making these professional connections and receiving this special training. The STEM Scholars said they are inspired to help their peers and family members adopt healthy habits to try to prevent such chronic diseases like diabetes. Florida Hospital leaders hope to expand this new STEM learning program in the future.

Coming in October...

Watch for details about our next General Council meeting focusing on **"The Power of STEM in Power Generation"** on **October 26, 2-5 pm**, hosted by Siemens at their [Orlando Wind Service Training Center](#)

STEM in the Community

- RSVP to the [Michelee Puppets Fundraising Breakfast](#) on Friday, September 30th!
- [Early Bird Registration](#) for the DiSTI Duffer Charity Golf Tournament is Open
- As [commercial space race](#) grows, student interest takes off

Submit your **2016 Membership Application** online at:

www.centralfloridastem.org/getinvolved/joinCFSTEM

3259 Progress Drive, Orlando, Florida 32826
(407) 207-7426 | info@centralfloridaSTEM.org

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Joe Swinski, President & Cofounder of [DiSTI Corporation](#), is the father of twin girls in their senior year at Lake Mary High School. Scott Ariotti, Director of Global Marketing for DiSTI, has a son in the United States Air Force & daughter in her junior year at Crooms AoIT. Both Joe and Scott have been in the local simulation and training industry for over twenty years and have witnessed firsthand the struggle to find enough exceptional engineering talent.



In 2012 they decided to turn their company team-building golf event into an annual charity fund raiser for the CFSTEM. The 2015 event raised \$14,000 bringing the total contribution amount to nearly \$30,000 for K-12 STEM activities, camps, and scholarships in Central Florida. This year, they've set a goal to raise \$20,000. Since DiSTI covers the material costs of the event, every dollar raised goes to the CFSTEM. To become a sponsor, player, or donor for this casual family-friendly fun-filled 9-hole visit www.distiduffer.org

NAWCTSD SPONSORS SUMMER ROBOTICS WORKSHOP



[NAWCTSD](#) organized & sponsored a summer robotics workshop at Milwee MS for teachers entitled "Making Robotics Fun for Middle Schoolers." NAWCTSD STEM organizers collaborated with two Seminole County Public School robotics teachers in developing this workshop. 28 teachers from seven Florida counties, Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Flagler, Volusia and Brevard, attended this workshop. Topics covered included the Engineering Design Process; designing, building and programming robots; ways to teach building and programming; classroom management; developing a robotics curriculum; resources and lesson plans. This effort was funded by ONR through their STEM program.



www.centralfloridaSTEM.org