

STEM Connections

February 2016

GET INVOLVED!

- Come meet the Future! **FIRST Meet & Greet** on February 20th
- Maitland Middle School will be hosting a **STEAM Career Awareness Day** and needs STEAM professionals on February 24th
- Attend the **STEMulation Expo** on February 26th at the Mid Florida Campus
- **Odyssey of the Mind** Regional Competition— Call for Judges!
- Like us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/CFSTEM

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Robo-Knights is a robotics team from Orlando supported by the Central Florida STEM Education Council. We are an after school activity team focused on STEM education. The team represents students from Seminole and Orange County High Schools and Home Schools near UCF. (University, Haggerty, Lyman, Winter Park and Wekiva High School - boys and girls)



The local individual high schools are having a challenge to support the after school schedule hours to maintain and manage a competitive robotics team. Army/Navy/LM engineering mentors formed this team structure independent of individual school to best cater to all the local students that want to participate in this great opportunity.

Robo-Knights are having a very successful rookie year:

- Winning Alliance at Tesla League Championships - Jan 2016
- Won the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award (awarded for not only thinking outside the box, but also has the ingenuity and inventiveness to make their designs come to life)
- Highest ranking rookie team in the FL State
- 3rd Alliance Captain at the FL State Championship - Feb 2016
- Only rookie team advancing from FL to the South Super-Regional Championship (National level)

STEMulation EXPO

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS



FEBRUARY 26, 2016

8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.



In place of our February General Council meeting we are partnering with Orange Technical College – Mid Florida Campus to offer a **STEMulation Expo** on February 26 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. A number of companies and other organizations engaged in STEM education will be exhibiting. Robotics demonstrations, interactive gaming tours, virtual field trips and much more will be offer. We encourage you to come visit us there and experience all the many opportunities to learn about STEM education .

For more information, please click [here](#) to refer to their flyer.

Community Partners



STEM Connections

February 2016 (continued)



The National Leadership Conference
May 18 – May 20, 2016
Hilton Baltimore | Baltimore, MD

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATH

As students, teachers, job seekers and employers alike can attest, growing interest in STEM is providing renewed energy to communities across the nation. At the very heart of this critical movement is U.S. News STEM Solutions. Now in its fifth year, the National Leadership Conference brings together the brightest minds in business, academia and government not only to contribute key insights to the nationwide STEM debate; but also to ensure that STEM's hard-won momentum is channeled into practical, self-sustaining strategies for **inspiring, educating and hiring** the diverse STEM workforce of tomorrow. The Council is a Supporting Organization of the conference.
www.usnewsstemsolutions.com

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Barb Krna is one of the founding members of the Central Florida STEM Education Council since early 2009. Presently she holds the Executive position as Secretary of the Board as well as the Chair for the Communications Committee. She has been working in the Modeling & Simulation

industry for over 33 years and is currently working for Cole Engineering Services, Inc. (CESI) in Project Management.

You will have seen Barb supporting many of the CF STEM activities such as the DiSTI Duffer, the quarterly General Council Meetings, I/ITSEC, and the STEM Pavilion at the State Fair. She is a hands-on, roll-up her sleeves and get things done type of person that loves to engage with parents, teachers and students to keep STEM at the forefront of our community.

Barb has also been involved with volunteering for many local STEM events such as the UCF SECME Regional competitions, the Seminole County Regional Science, Math and Engineering Fair, the Business Professionals of American judging, UCF's WISE mentoring program, and CROOMS Academy

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Walter Legan



Jillian Gloria



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

www.centralfloridastem.org/getinvolved/joinCFSTEM

STEM in the Community

- Florida Tech Jet Dragster the focus of [free STEM poster, lesson plan](#)
- South Florida schools experiment with [zSpace virtual reality labs](#)
- Charles Bolden: [‘Science is for Everyone’](#)
- [Tech show Otronicon](#) invades the Orlando Science Center
- [2016's Best & Worst Metro areas](#) for STEM Professionals