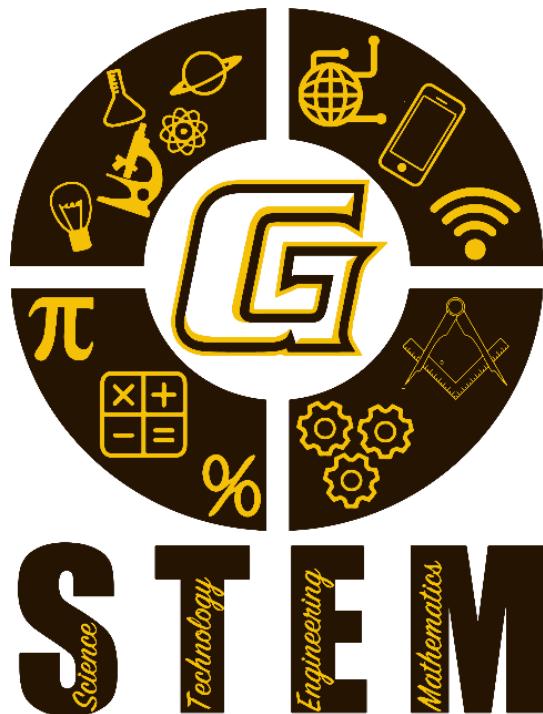


STEM Central Newsletter



Upcoming Events

STEM Summer Camp
July 19th – 21st
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Questions & Concerns

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Introduction

In September 2021, Garden City Community College was awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund three new programs, two faculty and two staff positions, and an addition to the north side of the Warren Fouse Science and Math building. Three new programs Cybersecurity, Robotics, and Crop Production will be developed. The additions to the building include separate labs for physics, cybersecurity, and robotics, with additional classrooms, student tutoring space, and offices. The grant officially began on October 1, 2021 and will be completed in 2026.

GCCC is set to become the STEM Hub for Western Kansas as well as the first community college within the region to have separate labs for biology, chemistry, anatomy, and physics with a cadaver lab and virtual dissections tables. The STEM project has four key components for success: 1) expand STEM instruction with three new certificate/degree programs and ten STEM courses converted for online delivery 2) develop a robust articulation program with Fort Hays State University 3) create services including summer programs to build STEM interest and skill with activities and 4) renovate a STEM hub with newly equipped labs and STEM classrooms for instruction and support.

Recent Highlights

This summer, Title V STEM team will hold the first STEM Summer Camp, “Icarus Rising – The Science of Drones”, for high school sophomores through graduated seniors. The camp will take place July 19th through July 21st and run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. right here on campus. Students will be diving into all things drone related including, aerodynamics, structure, applications of drones, sketch designs, and more! Garden City Community College's own Yuriy Drubinskiy will be leading the camp and we can't wait to welcome students from all over Western Kansas to campus!



Construction has finally begun on the new addition to the current Fouse building. Dick Construction has completed necessary groundwork north of the building where the renovations will take place. On June 27th, Senator Moran visited campus for the official groundbreaking ceremony of the STEM Success Center. Both President Ruda and Senator Moran spoke of the value that STEM education brings, not only to our small community but to the entire country.



Meet the Staff

We would like you to meet the STEM Central Staff! Some of us you may already know us, but there are some new faces to the Buster family!

Chuck Pfeifer

Project Manager

While I serve as the project manager, I am also the current Dean of Technical Education & Workforce Development. I have been in this role for over 5 years. I was born and raised in Finney County and graduated from GCCC in the early 1990s. My wife and I of 27 years reside in Cimarron, KS and have five sons. We enjoy the outdoors and sports, especially the KC Royals.



Ashley Winger

Activity Director & STEM Hub Coordinator

I'm a southwest Kansas native residing in Sublette with my husband, Gabe and our 13-year-old son, Roman. I received my undergraduate degree in Biological Science from Oklahoma Panhandle State University and my graduate degree in School Administration and Leadership from Fort Hays State University. I'm a huge MMA fan and love watching sports.

Staff Contact Info

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Kelsey Kilgore

Outreach Coordinator

I am originally from Leavenworth Kansas, but have now been residing in Scott City for two years with my husband Cameron, our two dogs, cat, and we have a sweet baby boy on the way. I received my undergraduate degree in Animal Science from K-State, and I'm currently pursuing my master's degree in AgEducation and Communication from K-State. My husband and I love all things football, agriculture, K-State, and steak.



Julie Farr

Administrative Assistant

As a small-town girl from Western Kansas, I grew up appreciating the charm that Garden City has to offer. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and will soon be a very proud military mom. I've worked for GCCC for over three years as the Administrative Assistant for Dean Chuck Pfeifer. During this time, I've developed a passion for grant management and data collection. I'm excited to foster these skills as our team expands the delivery of STEM education in our region.

STEM News

Scientists Hope to Mimic the Most Extreme Hurricane Conditions:

In January, the National Science Foundation was awarded a \$12.8 million grant to researchers to design a facility that can simulate wind speeds of at least 290 km/h – and can, at the same time, produce deadly, towering storm surges. No facility exists that can produce such a one-two punch of extreme wind and water. Scientists project that the 2022 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season, spanning June 1 to November 30, will be the seventh straight season with more storms than average. Read more about this article here: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/hurricane-season-testing-extreme-wind-water-conditions>

Robotic Buoys Developed to Keep Atlantic Right Whales Safe:

A Cape Cod science center and one of the world's largest shipping businesses are collaborating on a project to use robotic buoys to protect a vanishing whale from lethal collisions with ships. This technology uses buoys and underwater gliders to record whale sounds in near real time. This gives scientists, mariners, and the public an idea of the location of the rare North Atlantic right whales, said Mark Baumgartner, a marine ecologist. The whales number less than 340 in the world and ship strikes are one of the biggest threats to their existence, as they travel through some of the busiest stretches of ocean on the planet. Read more about this article here: <https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2022-05-28/robotic-buoys-developed-to-keep-atlantic-right-whales-safe>

Stay tuned for our fall edition of the STEM Central Newsletter!!