

STEM Central

Title III Newsletter

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Spring Semester Begins

Our grant team is excited to welcome everyone back for another successful semester. We are in Year 2 of our Title III grant objectives and performance indicators. We will continue working with staff, students, and administration to complete the following activities:

1. Develop and Pilot Computer Support Specialist program (Year 1 & 2)
2. Develop Crop Production Technology program (Year 1)
3. Develop Robotics program (Year 1)
4. Convert STEM online courses (phase 2)
5. Create and pilot STEM summer program (Year 2)
6. Continue developing articulation agreements with in-state four-year institutions
7. Continue STEM tutoring program

Our grant year runs from October 1st-September 30th





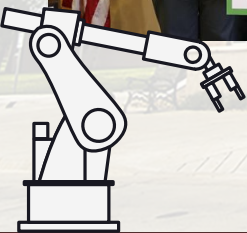
Campus Highlights

December 15, 2022 -- Garden City Community College was named *Best for Technical Education in 2023* in Kansas by Intelligent.com, a higher education resource guide for online/on-campus program rankings and higher education planning. The ranking was based on an evaluation of each program for the strength of its academic quality, graduation rate, cost and ROI, and student resources.

Click [here](#) for the full story.

December 14, 2022 -- Garden City Community College received a \$50,000 donation from American AgCredit to support a new greenhouse, a core component of the upcoming Crop Production Technology program.

November 15, 2022 -- The Garden City Community College Board of Trustees approved two new programs in Robotics and Computer Support Specialist during the regularly scheduled meeting.



Construction Update

The new STEM addition to FOUSE is progressing nicely. Dick Construction is in charge of this renovation project. The steel beams and roofing have been completed, and we are on track to be done before Fall 2023 begins!





Upcoming Event

STEM Summer Camp

Our annual summer day camp will be held for high school students looking to explore all things STEM. This year we will be working with GCCC staff and local industry partners to create an exciting schedule of events.

More details and dates will be released by the end of March.

Title III Position Available

STEM Outreach Coordinator

Come join our team! Collaborate with faculty and staff in developing programs to inform residents about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), new GCCC STEM program requirements, and STEM opportunities through projects and course development by facilitating partnerships with all stakeholders. This position will work closely with all Title III grant staff and GCCC instructors on securing partnership opportunities within the field of STEM. *Click [here](#) to apply!*



New Instructor Position Available

Crop Production Instructor

Garden City Community College's Technical Education division seeks an experienced agriculture professional who is passionate about helping students further their educational and career goals. This is a full-time 172-day contract position under the direction of the Dean of Technical Education. The primary assignment is to provide instructional services and learning facilitation for students in the Technical Education Division by teaching a variety of agriculture and crop production related courses.

Click [here](#) to apply!

Global STEM News

Esports boosting STEM diversity

Schools and businesses are using video games as a way to better prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

The article goes on to discuss the diversity of young video game users compared to the low number of actual STEM workers, suggesting schools and businesses should use video gaming as a way to diversify STEM careers by offering post-secondary scholarships in Esports as a way to get students on campus to further explore science, technology, engineering, and math related topics.

Additionally, the article suggests gaming skills can help prepare gamers for careers in IT, programming, statistics, software engineering, and more. Players who are proficient in typing can work efficiently in the modern workplace, and competitive players approach data differently than other workers.

Click [here](#) for the full article featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

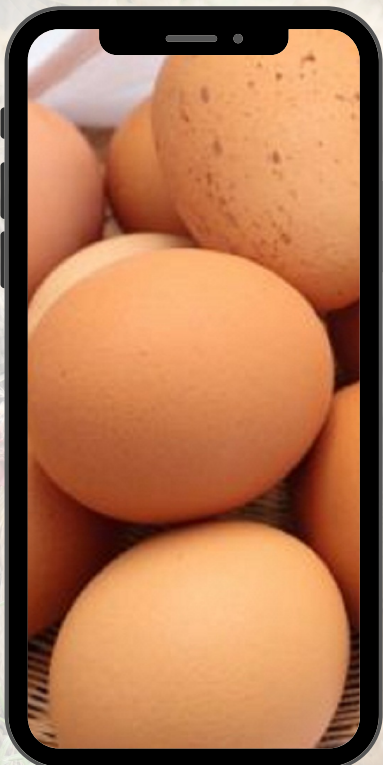


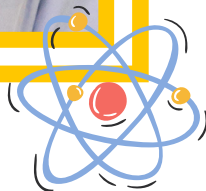
Local STEM News

Avian Flu Continues to Hit Farms

As avian influenza continues to strike farms across the country, so may the prices of eggs at the grocery store. A CDC report from two months ago indicated the U.S. may approach a record number of outbreaks of this disease in wild birds and poultry.

Click [here](#) for the full article with a video featured by KWCH Channel 12 news.





Meet Our Faculty & Staff

Daniel Kyinakwa

Associate Professor of Chemistry

I'm originally from Ghana, West Africa. Born and raised in a town that had no electricity. I attended a high school that had a diesel-powered generator as the only source of electricity. I had my Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Taught high school chemistry in Ghana before moving to teach in Malaysia. I moved to the United States in 2016 and joined GCCC in 2018 after obtaining a Master of Science in Chemistry Education from Illinois State University. I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Mississippi State University. My goal is to use the knowledge obtained to make chemistry more fun and relevant to students. I like watching movies, soccer, and college football. I also enjoy long walks and jogging.



Benjamin Gershon

Associate Professor of Math

I was born in St. Petersburg Florida. I received my undergraduate degree at the University of North Florida, my master's degree in Mathematics at The University of Kansas, and my master's degree in Economics at the University of South Florida. I enjoy solving puzzles and I have three sisters, Michelle, Claire, and Eve.



Lindsay Clark

Math & Science Building Secretary

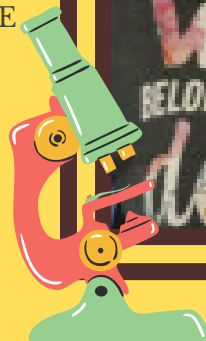
I was born and raised in Garden City and have lived here most of my life. I have been the Math & Science Secretary since 2021. I am a GCCC Alumni and was on the 1994-1995 Meats Judging Team. I enjoy music, movies, crafting, and traveling.



Shelli Lalicker

Associate Professor of Science

I graduated from GCCC before getting my undergraduate degree from FHSU, then completed my masters from Mississippi State. I taught for 20 years at Garden City High School where I developed the CSI and Zoology courses. I'm currently in my 7th year at GCCC having taught a variety of science courses. I'm also the sponsor for NOYCE and LSAMP on campus. I enjoy quilting, making and modifying clothes, and making weapons, armor, and shields for medieval reenactment events. Interesting fact about me: I've been attacked by a mountain lion.



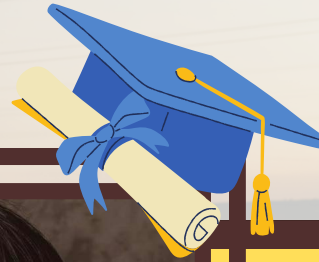


Melissa Olquin

Assistant Tutoring Coordinator

I was born and grew up in Garden City, KS. Pursued a degree in computer science and mathematics from Fort Hays State University, graduating in 2019.

Working here has been an exceptionally fulfilling experience. Helping students with tough problems, turning their mental gears, until finally achieving that eureka moment. I also have a strong fascination with machine learning, leading to creating projects involving natural language processing and computer vision. Additionally, I like playing flute, with the Garden City Municipal Band in the summers.



Diana Ponce-Martinez

STEM Paraprofessional/Tutor

I grew up in Garden City, graduating from GCCC in 2019 with an Associate of Science, then a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Washburn University last May, where I majored in both Business Data Analytics and Marketing. I tutor several classes in math, accounting, and physical science. I really enjoy music, especially pop, indie, and Latin music. I can also play the flute. In my free time, I like going to the gym. Another thing about me is I own a turtle named Tortilla and several guppy fish.

