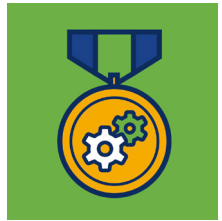


News from the field of the premiere DoD Youth STEM education program.

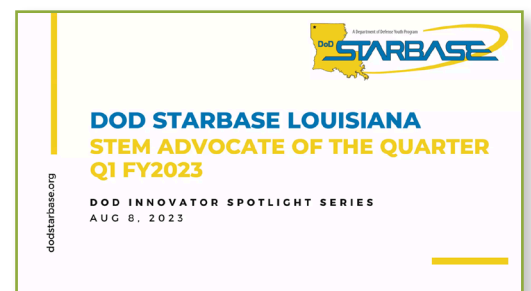
STARBASE Louisiana Wins DoD STEM Advocate of the Quarter Award



STARBASE Louisiana was selected as the recipient of the Department of Defense STEM Advocate of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023. This quarterly award recognizes outstanding STEM education and outreach efforts that further the mission of the Department of Defense.

This award usually goes to an individual, but the selection committee was impressed with the nomination packet submitted by Global Strike's Chief Scientist's office. In his congratulatory email, Dr. Steven Wax, the Acting Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Science and Technology (A/DCTO(S&T)) in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, stated, "We were impressed with the breadth and depth of the nominations we received and are proud to have selected you for this award. Your work as mentors and advocates for STEM education, especially to plan, coordinate, and execute such a diverse portfolio of programs to a largely underserved community base, is inspiring. Your efforts [in FY23] reached over 2,200 students encouraging them to have a better understanding of math, physics, and coding to name a few, all while building life skills that give them a more positive view of their future and what is possible."

STARBASE Louisiana began in 1999 with a basic 5th grade one class program and is now a Level III program serving over 2,300 students in 5th – 12th grade. Their program instructs approximately 2,000 fifth grade students in approximately 90 academies each



(Continued on page 2.)

"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

-- Albert Einstein



Curriculum Schedules due No Later than 31 August. Please upload your curriculum schedule for the 2023-2024 school year to your site's shared with TSG folder on google drive.

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year. They also instruct 30 STARBASE Advanced Programs at middle schools and eight STARBASE Advanced high school sessions at eight different schools. Their Advanced STARBASE high school program has taken six teams from several high schools to national competition of The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC) over the past 3 years. All five graduating seniors from the first national qualifying TARC team entered aerospace fields of study at universities nationwide.

That type of outcome is music to the ears of Dr. Donna Senft, the chief scientist for Air Force Global Strike Command, who nominated STARBASE Louisiana for the award.

“The future capabilities of Air Force Global Strike Command and the DoD, in general, depend upon a pipeline of STEM graduates,” she said. Col. David Anderson, 307th Bomb Wing commander agrees. “STARBASE Louisiana has been a leader in STEM education since its inception more than 20 years ago, and the 307th Bomb Wing is proud to sponsor them,” he said. “Laurie and her team’s efforts will have a positive impact for decades.”

STARBASE Recognitions

New STARBASE Sites Coming Soon!

- » CA-STARBASE Porterville
- » CA-STARBASE San Luis Obispo
- » MS-STARBASE Columbus
- » MS-STARBASE Mississippi-Jackson
- » NM-STARBASE Holloman

Welcome New Directors

Kirk Alexander <i>STARBASE Maxwell</i>	Becky Crager <i>STARBASE Wilmington</i>	Rosalva Razo <i>STARBASE Vandenberg</i>
Robert Baker <i>STARBASE Arkansas</i>	Samantha Duchscherer <i>STARBASE Edwards</i>	Ken Smith <i>STARBASE Hawaii</i>
Matt Belina <i>STARBASE South Bend</i>	Alesha Earnest <i>STARBASE Kingsley</i>	Celeste Taylor <i>STARBASE Savannah</i>
Kayla Bossie <i>WV STARBASE Academy</i>	Jeremy Hand <i>STARBASE Camp Rilea</i>	Chad Wright <i>STARBASE San Luis Obispo</i>
Angi Briggs <i>STARBASE Gary</i>	Rene Martin <i>STARBASE Porterville</i>	Amanda Smith <i>STARBASE Rees (formerly Umatilla)</i>
Jordan Brown <i>STARBASE Portland</i>	Brande Morgan <i>STARBASE Indianapolis</i>	Evan Smith <i>STARBASE Fort Wayne</i>
Dan Cloninger <i>STARBASE Charlotte</i>	Shelia Phillips-Hicks <i>STARBASE Swamp Fox</i>	

Kansas Congressional Members Tour STARBASE Sites

Recently, two STARBASE Kansas sites had the unique opportunity to showcase the DoD STARBASE program to two Congressional Members, Senator Jerry Moran and Senator Roger Marshall. Through this collective effort, Senators Moran and Marshall were able to observe students participating in several hands-on/minds-on activities while gaining understanding of the positive impact the STARBASE program has on young minds.

STARBASE Salina and the Kansas Adjutant General, Major General David Weishaar, who retired April 1, 2023, had the pleasure of giving Senator Jerry Moran a tour of the Salina facility. Director Dixie Tipling enjoyed visiting with the Senator and sharing her passion for the STARBASE program. Senator Moran spent most of the morning watching students from Wilson and Windom, Kansas, take part in robotics activities that emphasized coding and problem solving. Senator Moran expressed his gratitude for what the DoD STARBASE program is doing for the students of Kansas. As part of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Moran stated, "I will do my best to see what happens in Washington, D.C. does not interfere with the good work you are doing in Saline County."

While at STARBASE Kansas City, Senator Marshall had a similar experience, with a tour of the STARBASE Kansas City facility located in the Lenexa Armory and meeting some of the STEM Mentors from the 1077th Ground Ambulance Company. Director Gena Schleimer and the STARBASE Kansas City staff showcased STEM lessons that support critical thinking while engaging in problem solving. One such lesson was Bernoulli's Principle. Senator Marshall, a former Captain in the United States Army Reserve, and an enthusiastic STEM supporter, stepped in during this lesson, and taught part of Bernoulli's Principle to the participating students from Glenwood Ridge Elementary.

These visits gave Senator Moran and Senator Marshall an important opportunity to see the value of the DoD STARBASE program and how partnering with area schools is integral to students' STEM learning. STARBASE Kansas appreciates the continuing congressional support which allows the DoD STARBASE Program to reach the underserved and underestimated in Kansas.



Fort Drum Hosts Tour for Emerging Community Leaders



FORT DRUM, N.Y. (May 23, 2023) -- Fort Drum officials welcomed Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI) students for an installation-wide tour on May 19, as part of their professional development within the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce program. JLI participants hail from diverse sectors of industry, to include health care, family services, media, civil service, and education. The Fort Drum tour provided them with a glimpse into how a military installation functions, both internally – like a city within a city – and as a community partner in the tri-county region.

Bridging the gap between history and current events, the group first visited the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum and then met with 10th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers and civilian personnel at Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield.

Other site visits included the Fort Drum STARBASE Academy, which offers local fifth-grade students a weeklong STEM program, and the Bridgewater-Vaccaro Medical Simulation Training Center, which provides state-of-the-art medical skills sustainment to service members and area first responders. This gave the JLI group a better understanding how Fort Drum supports units across the Department of Defense with training capabilities, while also being good community partners by offering programs for local organizations.

“Fort Drum is undoubtedly a critical part of our community,” said Kayla Jamieson, Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. “Students were able to learn about the Fort Drum mission from the unique perspectives of Soldiers and garrison leadership for a deeper understanding of its impact on our region. The class is made up of community leaders who then use this newfound knowledge to help drive positive change for the mission in and around Jefferson County.”

(Adapted from <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/445336/fort-drum-hosts-tour-emerging-community-leaders>.)

“Show Us the Summer!” - A Call for Participation

We would love to highlight some of the field’s summer activities in the next few editions of *The Circuit*. Please share your summer camps and activities with us at email@dodstarbase.org. Be sure to include a little blurb about the experience and pictures!!!

STARBASE Montana Participates in the 2023 Montana STEM Summit

On April 13th, 2023, STEM professionals from across the state of Montana gathered in Helena for the 4th Montana STEM Summit. The STEM Summit, the first one to be held since the pandemic, saw educators, business leaders, government and non-profit employees, and after-school providers meet with the goal of growing the STEM ecosystem of Montana. The National Girls Collaborative Project, along with the Montana After School Alliance, partnered to organize the event.

Participants attended collaborative workshops throughout the day. Additionally, an open house event occurred that showcased various STEM organizations from around the state that operate in the educational sector. The Summit concluded with a student showcase, which enabled students from different areas of Montana to speak about the STEM projects they have participated in.

The state of Montana is the 4th largest state, by area, in the United States while being only the 44th largest state by population. Consequently, Montana STEM educators face some challenges that are somewhat unique. The two biggest obstacles that many face are the availability of both volunteers to work with youth and transportation methods to get students to/from STEM events. The event brought together STEM education stakeholders and enabled them to connect and collaborate on solutions that will empower all to continue to serve students across the state. Rachel Wanderscheid, the Director of the Montana After School Alliance and key organizer of the STEM Summit, commented "It was great to get everybody back together in the same room, allow a space to share ideas and collaborate, and remind each other that we are not in isolation as we strive to bring high quality STEM programming to students across the state".

STARBASE Fort Harrison (SBFH) Director, Dr. Michael Vannatta, participated in the workshops throughout the day and helped staff the STARBASE Montana booth, along with SBFH Deputy Director Kaylee Nathe, during the Open House. Reflecting on the event, Dr. Vannatta said, "The STEM Summit was a wonderful opportunity for passionate STEM professionals to gather, network, share ideas, and form partnerships to help us all serve Montana students."

The next Montana STEM Summit will occur in 2025. The organizers and participants are hopeful to build on the momentum from this year and grow the event.



STARBASE Program brings 5th Graders to Jackson Barracks for Some Kid-Friendly STEM Training



It might sound like something out of a science fiction movie: Bees launching rockets as part of a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative. But these “Honeybees” were students from Arlene Meraux Elementary School in St. Bernard Parish, and the activity was part of a weeklong science education program they took part in with activities and problem-solving opportunities.

STARBASE, a DoD-sponsored educational program designed for fifth graders, engages students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The historic Jackson Barracks serves as the setting for the experience that educates, entertains, and inspires students from across the metro area. About 1,200-1,400 students visit STARBASE Jackson Barracks each year, including all of the fifth graders in St. Bernard Parish as well as students from Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

Caius Nata, a student from Arlene Meraux Elementary, said his favorite part of STARBASE is everything. “STARBASE has helped me learn more about programming and science. I have loved science since I was 4, so I loved learning more of it here.”

His classmate Katherine Castro is also a fan. “I loved that I got to work with my friends during robotics and to save a superhero in the robotics mission,” Katherine recalled. “I loved this week so much my mom is buying me books on science and technology, so I can learn more — and she never does that!” She said one of her favorite aspects was the Eggbert mission, where students design a safety restraint device to protect a raw egg, launched from the ceiling on a cord. “It was fun, because we got to crash it, but then fix it to make it better. We had a budget, so I felt like an adult, watching how much money we spent.”

Nettie Phillips, STARBASE Program Director, said the Eggbert project and the rocket launching are always highlights for each class. “Students get opportunities to collaborate on engineering projects and to build and launch rockets outside as a class,” she said. “Rocket launching is a staple that most students remember years later. It also gives them an opportunity to be outside and get their energy out.”

Natalie Albers, Meraux Elementary principal, said she appreciates having this opportunity for her students. “STEM is such an important part of our science learning, and to see it brought to life with our students building rockets to launch and programming robots is really exciting. Our students are extremely fortunate to be able to participate in so many hands-on learning opportunities.”

In addition to the regular program offered to fifth graders during the school year, STARBASE Jackson Barracks has expanded its reach to include summer camps and rocket launching with the Cub & Girl Scouts. Phillips and her team are also bringing STEM activities to other schools in St. Bernard.

“We were excited to have partnered with Rowley Alternative School for more than two years with our [advanced] outreach program.” The program continues to grow, with plans to have classes and STEM after-school clubs at all three middle schools in St. Bernard as well as Our Lady of Prompt Succor, a Chalmette Catholic school. Phillips said this outreach enables students to build on prior knowledge.

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“We love going into the middle schools to see so many familiar faces,” she said. “It’s great because most of the students attended STARBASE in fifth grade, so they are super excited to extend their STEM experiences into middle school and beyond.”

Phillips has been part of STARBASE for nine years and enjoys teaching in a way that fully engages the hands and minds of her students by providing them with so many critical thinking scenarios. “The most rewarding part of it all is seeing that light bulb moment when a student realizes that this is not only fun, but they learned something, too,” she said. “It never fails that at the end of the week they are begging us to make it a full-time school!”



(Adapted from https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/STARBASE-brings-kids-to-jackson-barracks-for-stem-training/article_73680584-d323-11ed-a171-47572b44f9d8.html.)

“’Twas the Night Before STARBASE”

’Twas the night before STARBASE,
and all through the lab
not a molecule was reacting,
for that would be bad!!

The iPads were charged,
and the chrome books were waiting,
for coding and CAD
and some Mars Base creating.

The Spheros couldn’t wait
for someone to get rolling.
They needed cadets
to care of the coding.

In the midst of the lab,
a commotion did rise,
It was Eggbert’s big launch,
Coming down from the sky!

With a brave Eggstronaut,
restrained inside,
they hoped for a landing,
where Eggbert survives.

Bernoulli and Newton
await in the air,
with hopes that
cadets soon will be there.

Straw rockets and coding,
and experiments galore,
this 5th-grade program
will soar evermore.

We will learn and explore
as our excitement takes flight,
Happy Night Before STARBASE,
and to all, a good night!

Written by Shannan Cloud, Deputy Director - STARBASE OK-Burns Flat