

SEPTEMBER
2023

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

STARBASE Patrick Received Visit from First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden

First Lady Jill Biden and Veteran Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough visited Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on Monday, October 16th 2023. She made stops throughout the installation including DoD STARBASE!!



(Source: <https://www.floridatoday.com/picture-gallery/news/2023/10/16/first-lady-visits-patrick-space-force-base-and-cape-canaveral-space-force-station/71209614007/>)



“Teaching is not a job. It’s a lifestyle. It permeates your whole life.”

--Jill Biden, First Lady

Summer STEAM Opportunities on the Island of Guam

Despite experiencing Super Typhoon Mawar in May, STARBASE Guam summer camp was still able to happen. Military dependents were provided with exciting curriculum and instruction, with some of our original lessons like Coding the Road with Ozobots, Contraption Action, Fly on the Ceiling, and Chromatography. Participants even played STEM BINGO to learn more about the different types of careers that exist based on their “sparks.” Focusing on participants’ “sparks” allowed them to associate their likes, interests, and hobbies with STEM careers that perform similar tasks to what they enjoy doing, in hopes to inspire, motivate, and guide them in their future endeavors.



In addition to summer camps, STARBASE Guam was able to mentor four students of different grade levels who were exposed to educational and administrative practices performed by the team as part of the Guam Summer Youth Employment Program (GSYEP). The GSYEP is an annual program administered by the Department of Youth Affairs that provides Guam’s future workforce, students ages 14-17, opportunities to work with a government agency, state legislator, or judicial representative over the course of six weeks. The intent of the GSYEP is to provide Guam’s youth with occupational knowledge, skills, and abilities through intragovernmental practices. Participants get to experience the life of a government employee through hands-on training and day-to-day processes in public service. The four students with STARBASE GUAM spent their time reviewing lessons, enhancing their computer literacy, and witnessing all the effort that is crucial in operating a successful academy.



STARBASE Puerto Rico Gets an Update

MUÑIZ AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Puerto Rico -- STARBASE Puerto Rico (PR), a Department of Defense-sponsored youth educational program located at the 156th Wing, modernized its computer laboratory inventory with 33 new computers during May 2023, after recently upgrading its internet capabilities.

The new computers will allow students to engage with the latest versions of science, technology, engineering, and math programs provided in the curriculum.

"The Puerto Rico National Guard is committed to continuing its support of the DoD STARBASE program of planting the seed of curiosity in science, technology, engineering, and math in students around the island," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Denny Lozano, the STARBASE PR program manager assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters, Fort Buchanan. "We are achieving this unwavering commitment to the program by leading the projects of faster internet speed, new computers, and soon improved common areas to create an ambiance more conducive to students' learning and exploration."

To fulfill the technology requirements of this program, the computer laboratory is equipped with the latest version of OnShape Computer-Aided Design software - which allows the students and teachers to work as a team in real-time product design while using basic engineering concepts.

"The computer upgrade has impacted us a lot," said Urbano Ayala, director of STARBASE PR. "The old computers were running with an outdated operating system of Windows 7 and our OnShape CAD software needed Windows 10."

Along with the hardware modernization in the computer laboratory, the recent upgrade of the internet service saw an increase in capacity from 6Mbps to 500Mbps, allowing a reliable connection to enable an efficient workflow amongst the students and the staff.

"There was a substantial improvement to our daily operations," said Ayala. "We saw a significant impact by increasing the capacity of the internet and met the technological requirements of the administrative staff and students using the computer laboratory and classrooms."

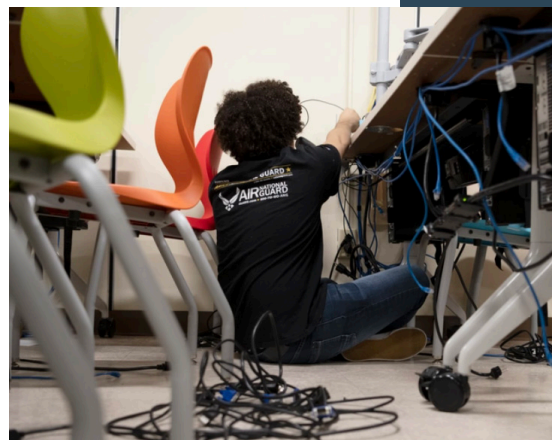
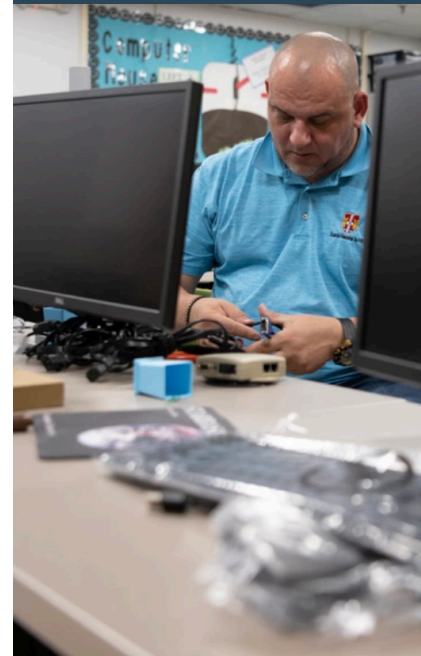
For the past 27 years, more than 27,000 middle school students have had the opportunity to participate in and graduate from the STARBASE Puerto Rico program.

This unique program is not only designed to immerse students in a hands-on STEM curriculum to solve real-world problems but also surround them with exemplary airmen and other positive role models.

"The Puerto Rico Air National Guard has always been willing and able to support us," Ayala said. "As part of our career development class, we bring airmen to speak to the students about the importance of STEM in their career fields."

The program aims at maintaining current, cutting-edge technology to continue its operations and aspires to expand to serve and impact even more youth around Puerto Rico.

(Article obtained from <https://www.156wg.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3414331/starbase-puerto-rico-modernizes-computer-laboratory/>)



STARBASE Hawai'i's National Impact Highlighted on Local Network

STARBASE Hawai'i was recently featured on NLTV (Na Leo 'O Hawai'i), a local television network on the island whose mission is to facilitate diverse community, education and government dialogue and expression by providing television access for the people of the County of Hawai'i. STARBASE Hawai'i was recognized for the amazing things they are doing in STEM for the keiki community.



Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4s74stux> to see the video!



Several of the recordings from the FY23 Brown Bag Training Series have been developed into training videos. You can find them in the following courses on STARBASE-U.

Training	Course
Resource Management	<i>Resource Management Basics</i>
Reporting and Data Collection	<i>SB Director Resources</i>
Digital Tools	<i>SB Director Resources</i>
Curriculum Scheduling and Implementation	<i>Approved STARBASE Curriculum</i>

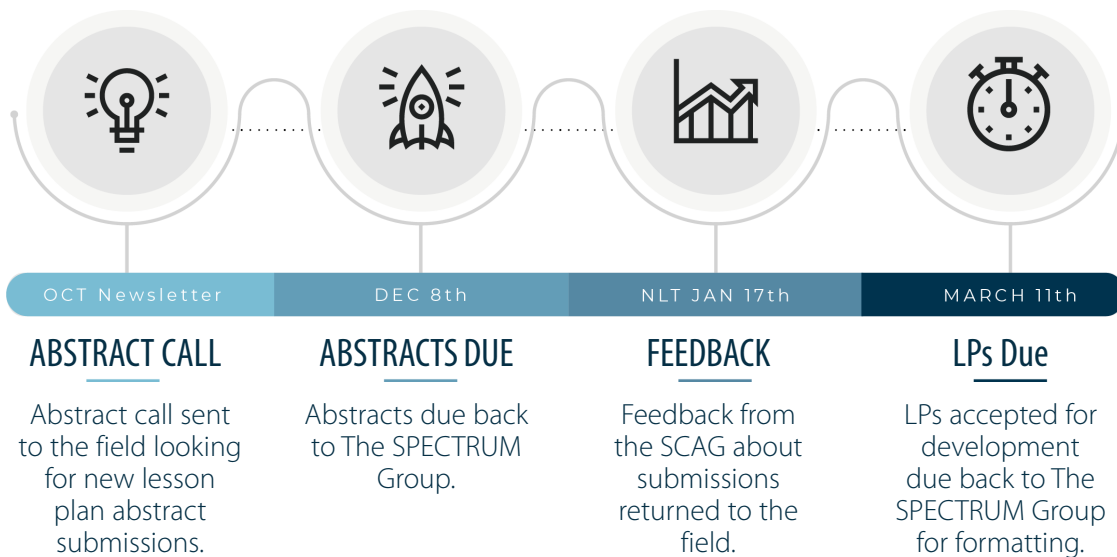
Curriculum Abstract Data Call

The STARBASE Curriculum Advisory Group (SCAG) is soliciting your input for new lesson plans to be included in the approved curriculum for the DoD STARBASE Program.

This is an opportunity for you to showcase lessons that you may have utilized in summer programs, and that you would like to see become part of the approved curriculum.

Using the form available on STARBASE-U in the *STARBASE News* course, please submit your proposed abstract no later than Friday, December 8th, 2023 to email@dodstarbase.org. The SCAG will review your abstract submission and notify you that your idea has been accepted to be developed into an approved lesson plan in mid-January 2024. Further dates will be provided throughout the process.

The SCAG is excited to review your ideas. Thank you in advance for your work on this endeavor to expand and keep the STARBASE Curriculum fresh.



A Call for Participation

Throughout the year, this newsletter will continue to spotlight the achievements, partnerships, and tips of the participants of the DoD STARBASE program. Please share your achievements, success stories, and helpful tips with us at email@dodstarbase.org.

Looking for the most recent curriculum publications?

A new page has been added to the DoD STARBASE Curriculum Tracker for Published LPs. Check it out! <https://tinyurl.com/4245ktac>

Remembering Cheryl Arbour

Cheryl Arbour, STARBASE SPECTRUM Group Team member and former Louisiana STARBASE Director passed away on July 29, 2023 after a courageous four-year battle with ovarian cancer. She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Paul; daughter, Kate; sons, Cole and Carson; grandson, Emmet; and numerous other family and friends.

Cheryl worked as part of the STARBASE Operational Evaluation Team since 2012 and also worked diligently on the STARBASE Annual Report. Her cheerful, confident, can-do attitude was contagious and was reflected in her overall dedication to the DoD STARBASE program and her team.

One of her favorite activities was working with all the STARBASE sites, especially new programs and new directors. She was always ready to share her knowledge and wisdom with them and to make sure they had all the information and resources they needed for success. Even through difficult chemo treatments and complications over the past four-years, she did her best to keep “normal” going, always putting her best foot forward.

In Cheryl’s honor, the “Arbour Award” will now be given to recognize the STARBASE location with the timeliest submissions for the annual STARBASE Director’s Questionnaire – an appropriate remembrance of a dedicated woman who took great pride in meeting the suspense date for all of her assigned tasks. Her smiling face and friendship are already greatly missed by the entire STARBASE family.

