

The Center for Science Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Joins the College of Education

At the beginning of the 2020 – 21 academic year in August, the NAU Center for Science Teaching and Learning (CSTL) became a unit within the College of Education. Its previous administrative home was in the NAU College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences (CEFNS).

The CSTL is home for a variety of STEM education related activities including pre-service teacher education degree programs, both undergraduate and graduate; in-service teacher professional development, including a graduate degree and a variety of grant-funded projects; informal and out-of-school STEM learning programs; citizen science and community engagement and outreach programs; undergraduate STEM education enhancement projects; and evaluation and assessment of STEM education programs and projects.

During the past year, the CSTL graduated 29 new STEM teachers from the undergraduate and graduate pre-service teacher education degree programs combined. Currently, we are serving 158 students in our undergraduate program (the **NAU Teach Program**) and 10 students in our two graduate degree programs, one for pre-service teachers leading to certification (MAT-S) and the other for in-service teachers (MAST). Both of our graduate degrees are now fully online, thus available to students world-wide.

The CSTL has an extensive portfolio of externally funded STEM professional learning, outreach, and evaluation programs that impact STEM education across our state as well as the nation. Many of these programs involve partnerships with a number of national organizations such as WestEd, Museum of Science in Boston, etc. Many are also funded by national/federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), US Department of Education, etc. Some of our projects that involved national partnerships include the following:

- Planetary Learning that **Advances the Nexus of Engineering, Technology, and Science (PLANETS)**, funded by NASA for \$4,923,480.
- Expanding Geospatial Technology Career Development for High School Students through Teacher Professional Development – **Power Of Data (POD)**, funded by NSF for \$1,936,773.

Our center is impacting STEM education at the school level across our state through the **STEM Focused Schools** program, which is currently funded by the APS Foundation and the Phoenix Suns Charities. We are also actively involved in promoting Robotics education through current funding from the Sanghi Family Foundation.

The CSTL is looking forward to continuing its mission of shaping the future of STEM Education by offering this rich variety of programs in Arizona and beyond through partnership with and support from the NAU College of Education, our new home! To learn more about our activities, projects, and program offerings, please visit nau.edu/cstl.