Message from the Director

An update during our temporary closure

I hope you and your family are staying healthy (both physically and mentally) during these unique and difficult times. For over 25 years, Gateway to Science has served the entire state of North Dakota as a trusted source for science learning resources. While our doors are closed temporarily and our mobile program is grounded, we remain focused on our mission to inspire the discovery of science through hands-on experiences. Thanks to your invaluable support, our team of creative educators are hard at work creating an online space for engaging and meaningful learning.

A Positive Approach

STEM at Home (www.gatewaytoscience.org/stem-at-home) – Our education staff are building a library of resources to help families explore science at home. New topics are posted daily to our website and social media, and we feature something especially for preschoolers on Saturdays.

Gateway to COVID-19 Relief (www.gatewaytoscience.org/nd-covid19) – Gateway to Science is leading a statewide coalition to address the growing need for personal protective equipment (PPE) with high-tech equipment like 3D printers, laser cutters and CNC machines. In collaboration with the North Dakota Department of Health, partners like Microsoft TechSpark, EduTech, the K-20W Coalition, and the North Dakota STEM Ecosystem have joined us to bring organization, efficiency and effectiveness to the efforts of high tech-problem solvers around the state.
Looking to the Future

Exhibit Development – Although construction is temporarily on hold due to stay-at-home orders, we continue to work on exhibits for the new facility. We are excited with the progress in Transforming Energy, Growing Science, Weather All Around You, and Working Water. There isn’t enough space to tell you everything, but here’s a snapshot: New exhibits in Transforming Energy will demonstrate the production of oil, gas capture, and the refinery process, as well as the process of capturing wind and solar power. Growing Science will feature high-tech tools being used by farmers and ranchers to increase efficiency as they provide food for the world. A virtual landscape demonstrating the importance of trees as windbreaks is being developed for Weather All Around You. And, wait until you see Water Play! Kids and kids-at-heart will love all of the fun features in this custom-made exhibit.

Reopening (or Smart Restart) – We look forward to the time when it is safe to reopen the gallery. Our members have been notified that their memberships will be extended for the length of closure time. Our team is preparing for a complete sanitization. We will also evaluate our ongoing cleaning procedures to maintain a safe environment for our visitors.

Program Planning - Our STEM Adventure Camps are scheduled to begin on May 26. Once again, we are partnering with United Tribes Technical College, where our students in grades 1-5 will spend one day each week at the Intertribal Research and Resource Center. We have lots of other fun STEM activities planned for those students, too. Three weeks this summer will be focused on students in grades 6-9, who will have the opportunity to meet at offsite host locations, including Ducks Unlimited, Bartlett & West, and the BPS Career Academy. In addition to hands-on STEM activities, these students will have opportunities to explore careers at these offsite locations.

For now, the gallery is quiet, and the Gateway to Science on the Go van is parked outside. However, we will get through this crisis and, when the time comes, reopen our doors and get back to serving communities around the state.

Thank you for believing in Gateway to Science’s mission and ensuring that science learning can continue for everyone—today and for years to come.
We’re in this together. Stay well!

Beth Demke, Executive Director

Please visit our website at www.gatewaytoscience.org.
Donate to support our mission at www.gatewaytoscience.org/donate.