STEM Educators attend workshops

Information and educational materials for use in NDGTS programming

Our STEM Educators have become students at several workshops this summer.

Madison attended the *Lignite Education Seminar* sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council. The conference provided teachers with information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. Activities included touring a coal mine and the Milton R. Young power plant. Thank you to the Lignite Energy Council for providing this wonderful opportunity for teachers from North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota.

Madison and Kirsten both attended the *Exploring Biotech and Biofuels* workshop sponsored by the ND Soybean Council, ND Ag in the Classroom, and the MN Corn Growers Association. Participants created and tested biofuels, learned about plant science and pollination, examined GMO facts, myths, and modern methods of plant breeding, worked through a bioinformatics case study, and toured the Tharaldson Ethanol Plant. The workshop was presented by Nourish the Future and EducationProjects.org.
Kirsten participated in the Western Area Water Tour hosted by the Western Area Water Supply Authority in Williston. The tour included multiple stops in Williston and Ray, and provided insights into water demands, usage, and management.

The hands-on activities and tours were wonderful learning experiences. Madison and Kirsten also observed a number of STEM career paths available in North Dakota, and met a wide variety of STEM professionals that NDGTS can partner with in our onsite and outreach programming. Thank you to all who made these opportunities possible!

**Exhibit Spotlight: Blue Rhino Studio**

Full-service in-house artistic fabrication studio

Have you ever wondered where we get the incredible hands-on exhibits that will fill the galleries in the new building? Teams of exhibit developers design and create each experience. We are highlighting some of these developers and sharing the process of making an idea become an interactive exhibit for our galleries. In addition, we will look at the education and career paths of some of these talented individuals.

Blue Rhino Studio: *Soil Columns, Big Teeth, Cow Monitor, Human Kaleidoscope, Tubulum, and Air Cannon:* “I am convinced they can build just about anything and it will look amazing when completed,” noted Kim Eslinger, North Dakota’s Gateway to Science Gallery & Exhibit Director. “I love visiting their studio because I am never sure if I will be facing off with a life-sized T-rex or a super-sized water bear when I walk in.” Eslinger is referring to Blue Rhino Studio, creator of Soil Towers, Big Teeth, Cow Monitor, Tubulum, Human Kaleidoscope, and Puff of Air. Meet Blue Rhino Studio in [this NDGTS blog article.](#)

**STEM Camp at Ducks Unlimited Aug. 1-5**

Students entering grades 6-9 explore careers

The final STEM Camp for students entering grades 6-9 this fall takes place August 1-5 at Ducks Unlimited. The camp focuses on environmental science and will feature local STEM professionals leading hands-on
activities while sharing career opportunities campers may be interested in learning more about and pursuing in the future.

STEM Camps for grades 6-9 are full day camps, running from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The camp has limited openings at this time. For more details and to register for STEM Camp, please visit gatewaytoscience.org/summer-camps.