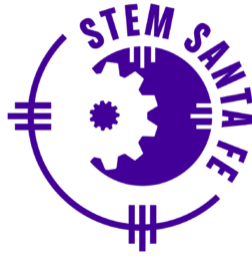


NEWS RELEASE
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STEM Santa Fe and Robotics Club at Gonzales Community School

Thanks to your generous grant, Santa Fe Garden Club, and the support of the Gonzales Community School PTA, STEM Santa Fe led a successful afterschool STEM club at Gonzales Community School this spring with an emphasis on robotics.



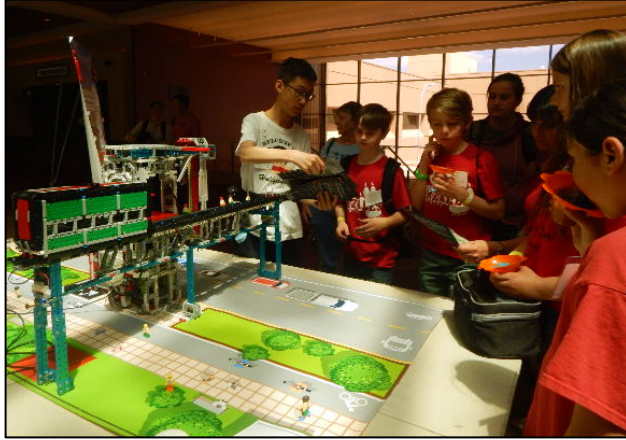
The Afterschool STEM Club met for two hours weekly for 7 weeks. The focus of the club was to mentor teams to participate in the RoboRAVE International event in Albuquerque on May 11th, 2018. At RoboRAVE, students competed against 558 teams from 20 countries; against over 1350 players, and over 200 coaches and assistant coaches.

grade students participated in two teams, a girls' team and a boys' team. Each team built its own robot out of Lego Mindstorm kits and programmed the robots using Lego EV3 programming software. This afterschool STEM club session in the spring followed another session we had in the fall where for six weeks, we mentored six students to compete in the Electric Car Challenge.

The students learned important life skills, including problem-solving skills, resilience, and most importantly, sportsmanship. In addition,

Four Gonzales Community School 5th and 6th





the competition widened their world when they met other students and teams from the state and around the world. The students were so excited and self-driven about the club that they surrendered valuable snack time to start work on their project each week.

Our students really enjoyed and learned from the experience of observing other robots and other challenges. The opening ceremony was especially inspiring for both the lead teacher and the students. NASA Ames Research

Scientist George Gorospe (a New Mexico Native!!) described the challenges of the Mars Rover robot. The students were fascinated to learn that the problems NASA experiences with the rover are the same problems these kids had with their own robots. All the club members want to participate in this competition again in 2019 (they may choose the robot jousting challenge this time), and they want to start the robotics afterschool club at their school earlier in the year, so they can experience more than seven weeks of Afterschool STEM Club.

The Lead Teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Lussiez at Gonzales Community School, wrote: "I loved spending time with the robotics crew. I had an amazing experience and I am so glad that I did it, thank *you!*" Mr. Michael Lee, principal of Gonzales Community School commented: "We are thankful to Lina Germann and STEM Santa Fe for guiding our students to participate in RoboRAVE International, where the students gained international exposure to cultures of the world and where robotics and inquiries cross all languages and cultures." Lina Germann, CEO of STEM Santa Fe, added: "It is so rewarding to see students' interest in STEM grow and to see them so self-driven when given the opportunity for exploring. STEM Santa Fe is looking forward to continue providing afterschool STEM clubs in SFPS."



STEM Santa Fe advocates for, develops, and provides STEM programming, mentoring, and resources for all youth, especially under-presented groups in STEM, to realize their potential and expand their opportunities in a dynamic world. In 2017-2018 school year, STEM Santa Fe spearheaded and provided about 2100 hours of STEM enrichment outside the classroom for students in 5th-8th grade in Santa Fe and Northern NM.

For more information, please visit our website: stemsantafe.org