

## Service Area

*The West TN STEM Hub project impacts YOU!*

Our service area includes 37 Local Educational Agency partnerships in 20 counties, including urban, suburban, and rural districts with nearly 17,000 teachers and approximately 240,000 students. The diverse geographic and demographic settings offer the ability to assess the effectiveness of different STEM teaching and learning strategies for the West TN region.

# West Tennessee STEM Talk Student Newsletter

Greetings from the West TN STEM Hub! We are a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) resource for West TN. Each quarter you will receive an update on current STEM happenings, events, and accomplishments for the West TN region. Please enjoy this second edition of the STEM Talk newsletter.

**Volume 1 | Issue 3**

## Regional Report: West Tennessee Central

Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders worked individually and in teams through a series of hands-on STEM-based activities. Campers learned applicable science concepts such as gears, friction, energy, and power, ratios, and data graphing, to build a complete solar car for a Junior Solar Sprint Competition. They competed to design and build a cantilever structure that can hold the most mass before collapsing. Campers used LabQuest instrumentation to explore concepts in physical and biological science. At the end of the week, awards were presented to activity winners.



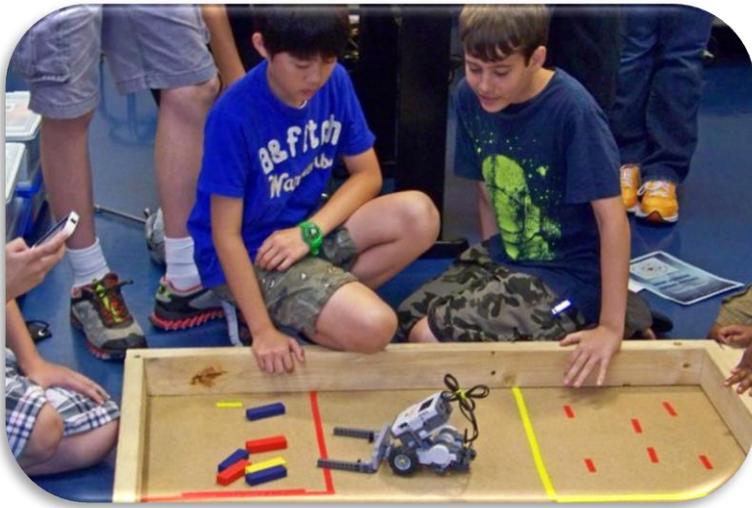
## Regional Report: West Tennessee North

The Newbern City Library and the McIver's Grant Public Library declared this summer's theme 'Fizz, Boom, Read!' This program seeks to incorporate STEM concepts as well as a love of books through free sessions for children pre-K through 18 years old on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays this summer at McIver's Grant Public Library and weekly activities at Newbern City Library. "(The summer reading program aids) children in maintaining their reading skills throughout the summer," said McIver's Grant Public Library Director, Regina Patterson. "Literacy goes hand in hand with the STEM program. STEM is important, but you can't do any of that if you can't read." The libraries have fun and interactive programs ranging from Lego construction and Chemical reactions in the Kids Zone to the "Spark a Reaction" program seeking to engage 13-18 year old students.



## Regional Report: West Tennessee South

Shelby Scholars Program (SSSI) is a summer STEM program for Shelby County middle school students at the University of Memphis. The students learn through problem-based activities and inquiry-based learning that reflects real world problems. Students are exposed to high-tech equipment and cutting-edge



applications. In addition to the STEM topics they learn, they are also exposed to writing, geography, and economics which are integrated into their projects. The goal of this program is to prepare students for high school STEM courses as well as encourage their enrollment in these courses. For more information go to <http://www.shelbyscholars.org/index.html>

## Click – Watch – Learn

Got YouTube? Visit the STEM Hub's [channel](#) to see, hear, and watch your STEM projects in action. We've created STEM focused videos called STEM GEMS (Great Experiences for Motivating Students) to highlight the work being done in West TN. [Click](#) to see what other schools are doing. [Click](#) to see how you can create and submit your own STEM GEMS video.



## Connect with us!

We are committed to keeping you informed about STEM activities in the West TN region. These are a few ways you can stay connected:



[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Website](#) | [YouTube](#)

**Facebook** West-TN-STEM-Hub

**Twitter** #WestTNSTEMHub

**[www.westtnstem.org](http://www.westtnstem.org)**

*Click on the "students" page for specific information for STEM educators.*

Watch STEM in Action on **YouTube** on the WestTNSTEMHub channel.

