



Think Make Create

LABS

# The Makerspace Playbook

Issue #5: Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022

## TMC SUPPORTERS: MICRON

The Micron Foundation has expanded global support for STEM education by sponsoring a new project in Taiwan modeled on Idaho's Think Make Create (TMC) Mobile Makerspace Labs. Late in 2020, Laurie Anderson, of the Micron Foundation, helped the Idaho Out-of-School Network (ION) create the partnership for this ambitious new STEM program. Ms. Anderson facilitated a gift from the Micron Foundation to the Idaho STEM Action Center (Idaho STEM AC) for \$30,000 to support the first TMC labs in Idaho and STEM activities for 1,000 Caldwell, Idaho youth. Those partnerships led to a global collaboration with a much bigger impact.

The first mobile makerspace labs for STEM education were piloted several years ago by an organization called Beyond School Bells (BSB) in Nebraska. In early 2021, Ms. Anderson wanted to understand what to expect in Idaho and began researching the Nebraska program. She discovered that BSB had contacts in Taiwan and knew about the need for rural outreach and STEM education in Asia. They put together a plan to fund one or more TMC Labs in Taiwan by Spring 2022.

Cathy Ammirati, also of the Micron Foundation, states: "Micron's Taiwan STEM Outreach team had been seeking an opportunity to reach rural students. TMC's success with afterschool programming in the US made it a great partner for Micron's international team."

Because of Micron's leadership and collaboration with the Idaho STEM AC, youth across the world will have greater access to STEM careers in the future. Ammirati said, "There are opportunities in the big districts, and we want to reach out to include all youth across the state to develop STEM skills and interests."

*-Anna Almerico, Idaho Out-of-School Network, Program Director*



Northshore STEM VISTA Jessica Deville, Region 9 LaSTEM Center Director Wendy Conarro, and Region 3 LaSTEM Center Director Christie Landry in front of the Brain Food Truck before delivering to Lafourche Parish schools.

## Spotlight on You: Brain Food Truck Supports Hurricane Ida Disaster Relief

Hurricane Ida made landfall as a category 4 storm in southeast Louisiana on August 29, 2021. Many schools in Ida's path were severely damaged and remained closed for several weeks as a result, especially those in the southernmost regions of the state, like Lafourche parish. Northshore STEM's TMC mobile lab the [Brain Food Truck](#), which is based out of Tangipahoa parish, provided STEM education activities and supplies for two elementary schools in Lafourche parish in the wake of Hurricane Ida to aid learning loss recovery for students in this disrupted school year.

The multi-parish collaboration is a testament to both the physical reach that the TMC mobile lab model allows organizations to achieve, and the collaboration facilitated by the recently created Louisiana Regional STEM (LaSTEM) Network centers. ([More about the Regional LaSTEM Network centers](#)). Regional LaSTEM Center Directors are encouraged to share information, collaborate, and interconnect through coordination of resources. In the wake of Hurricane Ida, Region 9 LaSTEM Center Director and Northshore STEM leader Wendy Conarro was quick to offer aid to her counterparts in the hardest hit parts of the state via the Brain Food Truck's hands-on, minds-on STEM activities. Region 3 LaSTEM Center Director Christie Landry saw the opportunity to support her region's STEM education needs and answered the call.

The collaborative efforts of these two STEM education leaders created a unique opportunity to recoup STEM learning losses in a way that allowed students in need to use their creativity, be hands-on, and have fun while learning – things that, while not necessarily conventional disaster relief, certainly helped get things one step closer to normal for Lafourche parish students in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

*-Jessica Deville, Northshore STEM Communications AmeriCorps VISTA*



# Give It A Try: NASA ASTRO CAMP

## Collaborative Partner Program

Looking for new, exciting, quality STEM activities to add into your TMC lab? Consider becoming a NASA ASTRO CAMP Collaborative Partner and take advantage of the most current NASA resources providing a connection for all youth to NASA Science Missions and Challenges! Northshore STEM's TMC Lab the [Brain Food Truck](#) became an official NASA ACCP in 2021. Thanks to this partnership, the Brain Food Truck expanded its menu, adding high quality and engaging STEM activities that were developed and vetted by NASA. For more information and to become an official NASA ACCP in your community, visit [nasa.gov/centers/stennis/education/students/astrocamp.html](https://nasa.gov/centers/stennis/education/students/astrocamp.html)



-Jessica Deville, Northshore STEM Communications AmeriCorps VISTA

## Put it Into Practice - Giving Youth Control

Research has shown when youth feel in control of their learning they are more engaged, enjoy learning and learn important skills such as self-determination, goal setting, and decision making. Ask yourself what giving youth control might look like in your program. We can't give youth a task they've never seen and expect them to know what is needed to succeed but we can guide them in the right direction. So, what does this look like?

1. Consider youth interests and identities in planning experiences. We all know we learn better when we are interested in the topic - find what they are interested in to explore.
2. Ask youth for their input on program design and implementation. Use their feedback in purposeful ways.
3. Encourage all youth to explore and express their interests during activities. Perhaps a youth has a talent to share - give the tools and proper support to help them succeed in share this talent with others.

There might be points where you feel like you should be doing more but remember, you are the guiding light for their learning. You are guiding them in their individual discovery and learning.

-Julie Boyle - Nebraska Extension and Beyond School

## Tips and Tricks for Giving Youth Control

Giving youth control is a great way to get youth invested in their learning. With you by their side guiding them along, youth in your program can take on several leadership roles. Here are a few ideas:

1. If you have a program advisory board include 1-2 youth members.
2. If a young person has a skill they want to share, help them facilitate a club or activity to teach that skill.
3. Have youth pick clubs or themes for the month/quarter/semester.
4. Work with youth to plan a parent night where they can showcase everything they are doing in the program.

-Julie Boyle - Nebraska Extension and Beyond School Bells

## Produced in Collaboration by:



[uidaho.edu/extension/4h](https://uidaho.edu/extension/4h)  
[idahootoutofschool.org](https://idahootoutofschool.org)



[4h.unl.edu](https://4h.unl.edu)  
[beyondschoolbells.org](https://beyondschoolbells.org)



[northshorestem.org](https://northshorestem.org)