

STEM Report

March 31, 2020

by Bill Teixeira



In the last issue of the Unscramble, we reported we were so thrilled we had another successful year and especially working with the STEM team members at the VAC. The first quarter started as we predicted with new partnerships ready and able to assist in our STEM presentations. Explore Science Earth & Space located in North Carolina and the NISE Net Worth sent us 10 projects to share with Students. The following partnerships are ready to get involved: Florida High Tech that provides elementary, middle, and High School instructors with access to STEM experts and the 99s, a New Generation of Women Pilots who conducted a great Class - we are looking forward to asking them back. The Girl and Boy Scouts working toward their Merit Badge now have an Introduction to Flight program being instructed by Carl Braun and Bill Brown, both VAC volunteers who will use our new Flight Simulator. The USAF at Patrick AFB came through again when we had a problem finding an instructor to conduct one of our classes. We were honored to have Lieutenant Colonel Scott Nichols stepping up to tell the class how the Pilots of the USAF prepare their flight plans. He shared so much more with us regarding his team flying the Black Hawk Helicopter. The presentation he gave on the Huey Helicopter such as we have in the restoration hangar was so informative. We all are aware of what happened at the beginning of March 2020 with an impact to our STEM program: The Coronavirus (COVID-19). The whole operation at the VAC was shut down until further notice on March 15, 2020, to protect the health and well-being of Staff and Students. The STEM program at the VAC will not fade away: we will continue. In the meantime, we have set in place a contingency plan to carry on the program as we are writing to you. We had a Webinar via ZOOM as a way to communicate and hold meetings from the comfort of one's home which worked great. We will present it to the parents of the students for them to view our new classroom setting via ZOOM and provide projects to the student directly to them at home. This is not only a productive way to communicate, but also to accomplish projects together via the Internet. We are still pursuing and planning to develop a program for a few students who want to get into a project and develop it with their own hands working on it until the project is completed. Keeping a positive attitude and seeing a child's smiling face is always the greatest reward one can receive.