

## STEM Expo' Deemed Successful

### Participating School Districts



#### Panhandle Area Educational Consortium

Patrick L. McDaniel, Executive Director

Calhoun  
Franklin  
Gadsden  
Gulf  
Holmes  
Jackson  
Jefferson  
Liberty  
Madison  
Taylor  
Wakulla  
Walton  
Washington



#### Heartland Educational Consortium

Dr. Debra Elliott, Executive Director

DeSoto  
Glades  
Hardee  
Hendry  
Highlands  
Okeechobee



#### North East Florida Educational Consortium

James Surrency, Ph.D., Executive Director

Columbia  
Flagler  
Gilchrist  
Lafayette  
Levy  
P.K. Yonge  
Putnam  
Union

On March 7, 2014, over two hundred and fifty students and seventy-five teachers from North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) member districts visited the University of Florida's campus for the annual STEM Expo. This event was hosted by NEFEC's STEM initiatives, Project BRIDGES and *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars*. Participants were excited to be on the University's campus, provided through the partnership of NEFEC and UF CPET. The Expo participants attended a variety of STEM focused hands-on learning forums. These included: **the science of sports**, where students could play a virtual game of baseball before assuming the role of a team manager and making mathematical decisions regarding the team, based on statistics gathered from the game; **gross anatomy 101**, where students dissected fetal pigs and discussed basic anatomy; **chemistry magic**, a forum focused on predicting and performing chemical reactions; **Rube Goldberg**, a forum where students competed in teams to create a Rube Goldberg machine; and **Tech School**, where students learned basic coding skills, and were able to create their own game. In addition to forums, thirty-eight students presented formal posters or STEM projects for their peers and for attendees who were interested in their session topics. Participants also had opportunities to discuss career options with college and STEM business representatives and work with college professors. Teachers who attended the Expo had the opportunity to improve their own STEM knowledge by attending a math forum facilitated by Dr. Tim Jacobbe or a science forum facilitated by the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Larry Chew. The event was a great success, with the ultimate outcome of improved STEM understanding for all participants.

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Students take part in the Chemistry Magic session where they learn the appropriate pipetting technique.



Students have a variety of opportunities to network with business partners.

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Assembling a Rube Goldberg Device that works properly requires careful thought.

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Students “glove up” in preparation for Gross Anatomy 101 during which they will dissect a fetal pig.