STEM Scholars Summer Field Site Experience
Florida Caverns State Park

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

Summer STEM Field Site/Workplace Experiences, across the districts served by the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, have allowed STEM Scholars to learn about STEM-related careers in their communities through personal experiences with STEM Talent Development Partners. This has been a valuable experience for participants and has contributed to their development which will help them to meet the demands of Florida's future economy.

Through the *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* Project's Talent Development Program, high school juniors and seniors from small districts across Florida participated in eight-day Field Site/Workplace Experiences this summer. These experiences are made possible through partnerships with leaders in STEM industries such as local businesses, agencies, the military, and higher education faculty. The experiences offered by these STEM Talent Developers are preparing STEM Scholars to become STEM-ready by demonstrating the value of real world interactions with STEM.

STEM Scholars from Marianna High School and Altha School took part in an 8-day experience at Oglesby Plants, International, Inc., led by Ray Gillis, Laboratory Manager and Altha School teacher, Sara Waldorff. While at Oglesby, Students received hands-on experience in the areas of plant tissue culture, medium preparation, culture multiplication under sterile conditions and planting microplants into "soil". Greater insights into STEM career options and a keener understanding of the relevance of the rigorous STEM courses they are taking while in high school were important outcomes for students. They also benefited by learning about professional workplace expectations and the importance of adhering to strict lab standards to ensure high-quality industry outcomes.

Pictured are students (L-R) Angela Smith (Marianna High School), Hannah Register and Justin Moore (Altha School) as they examine the results of their plant tissue culture experiment.

FloridaLearns STEM SCHOLARS
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Florida's Rural STEM Education Initiative
Science ~ Technology ~ Engineering ~ Math