



# NATIONAL RURAL STEM LEARNING SUMMIT

**JUNE 5-7 2024**

**TUCSON, AZ**

THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA

**WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 5, 2024**

**7:00-7:45 A.M. BREAKFAST**  
SONORAN 1 + 2

**8:00 A.M. WELCOME**  
CANYON 1

**8:15 A.M. KEYNOTE PANEL**  
CANYON 1

#### **MODERATOR**

- **JULIE EUBER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
FOUNDATION (SARSEF)**

#### **PANELIST**

- **BETH NICKEL, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, ARIZONA  
SCIENCE CENTER**
- **JEREMY BABENDURE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCITECH INSTITUTE**
- **KAL MANNIS, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF RURAL PROGRAMS AND  
OUTREACH, ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER**

**9:00-9:15 A.M. BREAK**

**9:30 A.M. WATER CONSERVATION: THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT**  
**BRENNA CHAMBERS, ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER & VICTORIA**  
**ROANHORSE, EXPLORA!**  
ASTER

**STUDENT CENTERED STEM EXPLORATION: NOTICING &**  
**WONDERING IN THEIR WORLDS**  
**AMBER FOLKMAN & DANI WRIGHT - SARSEF**  
CANYON 1

**RURAL STEM LEARNING ECOSYSTEM: CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES**  
**ALONG THE WAY**  
**JOSEPH 'SEPP' SPRIETSMA, CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ARIZONA**  
CANYON 3

**10:30 A.M. NATURE EXPLORATIONS WITH NASA**  
**TINA HARTE, NASA, SCIENCE SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS, INC (SSAI)**  
ASTER

**HOW SHOULD THE U.S. ADDRESS ITS NUCLEAR WASTE**  
**CHALLENGES: A VIEW INTO A COMMUNITY DIALOG PROCESS**  
**DR NICH WELLER & SOMALY JARAMILLO, SCHOOL FOR THE FUTURE OF**  
**INNOVATION IN SOCIETY, ASU**  
CANYON 1

**EDUCATOR WORKFORCE ACADEMY**  
**MARK PAULSEN, SCITECH INSTITUTE**  
CANYON 3

**12:00 P.M. LUNCH**  
SONORAN 1 + 2

**12:30 P.M. LUNCH FLASH TALK**  
**COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ARIZONA SCIENCE**  
**CENTER & EXPLORA, BRENNA CHAMBERS AND VICTORIA ROANHORSE**  
SONORAN 1 + 2

**12:45 P.M. LUNCH FLASH TALK**  
**RURAL STEM LENDING LIBRARY. YUMA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
**OFFICE, ELIANA OSBORN**  
SONORAN 1 + 2



- 1:00 P.M. INNOVATE TO EDUCATE**  
ASU, FIRELINE SCIENCE, AND SCIENCE VORTEX.  
COLLIN SELLMAN AND LAURIE ALTRINGER  
SONORAN 1 + 2
- 1:15 P.M. BREAK**
- 1:30 P.M. MORE THAN DEVELOPING 3-D UNITS...BUILDING CAPACITY IN 3-D TEACHING & LEARNING**  
SARA TORRES AND JOAN GILBERT, ASTA  
ASTER
- SPARKING CONNECTIONS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SHARED INTERACTIONS WITH DATA**  
RACHEL SMITH NC MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE  
CANYON 1
- INCLUSION IS EVERYTHING: INFUSE DEI INTO STEM**  
MATT CALDWELL, MY3VLIFE  
CANYON 3
- 2:30 P.M. BREAK**  
COFFEE BREAK SPONSORED BY CENTRAL AZ PROJECT
- 2:45 P.M. EXPLORING PATHWAYS TO BIOSCIENCE & HEALTHCARE CAREERS**  
BRIAN HOFFNER & BRADLEY BOSTICK, MARICOPA CO SCHOOLS  
ASTER
- OUT OF SCHOOLTIME (OST) LEARNING TO RE-ENGAGE STUDENT STEM INTERESTS**  
DR. HOLLY MILLER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
CANYON 1
- ASAP A VIEW INTO EMPOWERING STEM EDUCATORS**  
MIKE VARGAS & AMANDA WHITEHURST, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CANYON 3
- 3:45 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS**  
CANYON 1



**THURSDAY**  
**JUNE 6, 2024**

**7:15-8:15 A.M. BREAKFAST**  
SONORAN 1 + 2

**8:15 A.M. WELCOME, HOUSEKEEPING + MORNING RAFFLE**  
SONORAN 1 + 2

**8:30-9:10 A.M. THURSDAY MORNING NETWORKING**  
SPONSORED BY ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY.  
JULIE EUBER, SARSEF  
CANYON 1

**9:15 A.M. A SENSE OF PLACE: CRAFTING AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES FOR RURAL STEM LEARNERS**  
MATT CASS AND RANDI NEFF, SMOKY MOUNTAIN STEM COLLABORATIVE  
ASTER

**PIONEERING PATHWAYS: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF STEM IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH COLLECTIVE IMPACT**  
DANEL HOGAN, WATERS FOUNDATION & SARA TORRES ASTA  
CANYON 1

**WORKFORCE: THE FUTURE IS NOW**  
ACA PARTNERSHIP & DR. ANTOINETTE LINTON, U.C. FULLERTON  
CANYON 3

**10:45 A.M. CONNECTING STUDENTS TO MEANINGFUL STEM CAREERS**  
JESSICA HOWE AND KATE LEMKE, PIPELINE AZ  
ASTER

**WHY NOT LIBRARIES?**  
LISA LEWIS, ARIZONA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, DIRECTOR FLORENCE  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
CANYON 1

**DIG INTO MINING - WORLDWIDE CAREER PATHWAYS**  
TAMMY PAZ-COMBS & VICKY WAITHE, FM  
CANYON 3



**12:00 P.M. LUNCH, EXHIBITOR AND SPONSOR NETWORKING**

SONORAN 1 + 2

**1:00 P.M. LUNCHTIME GUEST SPEAKER**

**MAYOR MILA BESICH, CITY OF SUPERIOR**

SONORAN 1 + 2

**1:30 P.M. BREAK**

**1:45 P.M. TECH TOOLS: ASTRONOMY FOR THE JUSTICE IMPACTED & GAMIFICATION OF LEARNING**

**DONNA JAGIELSKI, AZTEA; YOONHEE LEE, PLAYFUL LEARNING**

ASTER

**UNLEASHING RURAL STEM INNOVATORS**

**LIZ COLTON, CRANE ELEMENTARY & USPTO**

CANYON 1

**EMPOWERING STEM IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: BRAIDING STUDENT AND PARENT EXPERIENCES**

**DANEL HOGAN, WATERS FOUNDATION AND SARA TORRES, ASTA**

CANYON 3

**3:15 P.M. BREAK**

**3:30 P.M. THURSDAY AFTERNOON NETWORKING, STEM EXPLORATIONS SPONSORED BY SCIENCE NEWS EXPLORERS AND THE BURTON FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**CORI ARAZA, GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY**

CANYON 1 + 2

**USGAO: DIALOG WITH MEREDITH MOORE ABOUT FEDERALLY FUNDED STEM PROGRAMS**

**MEREDITH MOORE**

PRIMROSE

**4:30 P.M. REFRESH, RECHARGE, RELAX WITH NEW FRIENDS**

**6:00 P.M. SUMMIT RECEPTION**



**FRIDAY**  
**JUNE 7, 2024**

**8:00-9:00 A.M. BREAKFAST**  
SONORAN 1 + 2

**9:00 A.M. SUMMIT FEATURED SPEAKER**  
REETIKA DHAWAN, AZ WESTERN COLLEGE,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ENTREPRENEURIAL COLLEGE & VICE  
PRESIDENT OF WORKFORCE & HEALTHCARE  
TOPIC: EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH STEM EDUCATION  
AND INNOVATION  
CANYON 1

**10:00 A.M. BREAK**

**10:15 A.M. SUPPORTING MATH TEACHERS TO PROMOTE STUDENT-CENTERED  
INSTRUCTION**  
RODRIGO GUTIERREZ AND SHANNA GRAY, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
ASTER

**BUILDING LEADERS IN STEM THROUGH COACHING, CONNECTIONS,  
& CAMARADERIE**  
CORI ARAZA, GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY, KAL MANNIS AZ  
SCIENCE CENTER  
CANYON 1

**DIGITAL EQUITY IN ARIZONA: SO WHAT'S NEXT?**  
ERIN LORANDOS, ACA  
CANYON 3

**11:30 A.M. CLOSING REMARKS, RAFFLE, AND CALL TO ACTION**  
CLAIRE CONWAY, SCITECH INSTITUTE & KAL MANNIS, AZ  
SCIENCE CENTER  
CANYON 1



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STEM AZ EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SCHOOL OF  
MINING & MINERAL RESOURCES

## RURAL STEM SUMMIT PARTNERS

