

THE NEED FOR RURAL COMMUNITY STEM ACTIVITIES

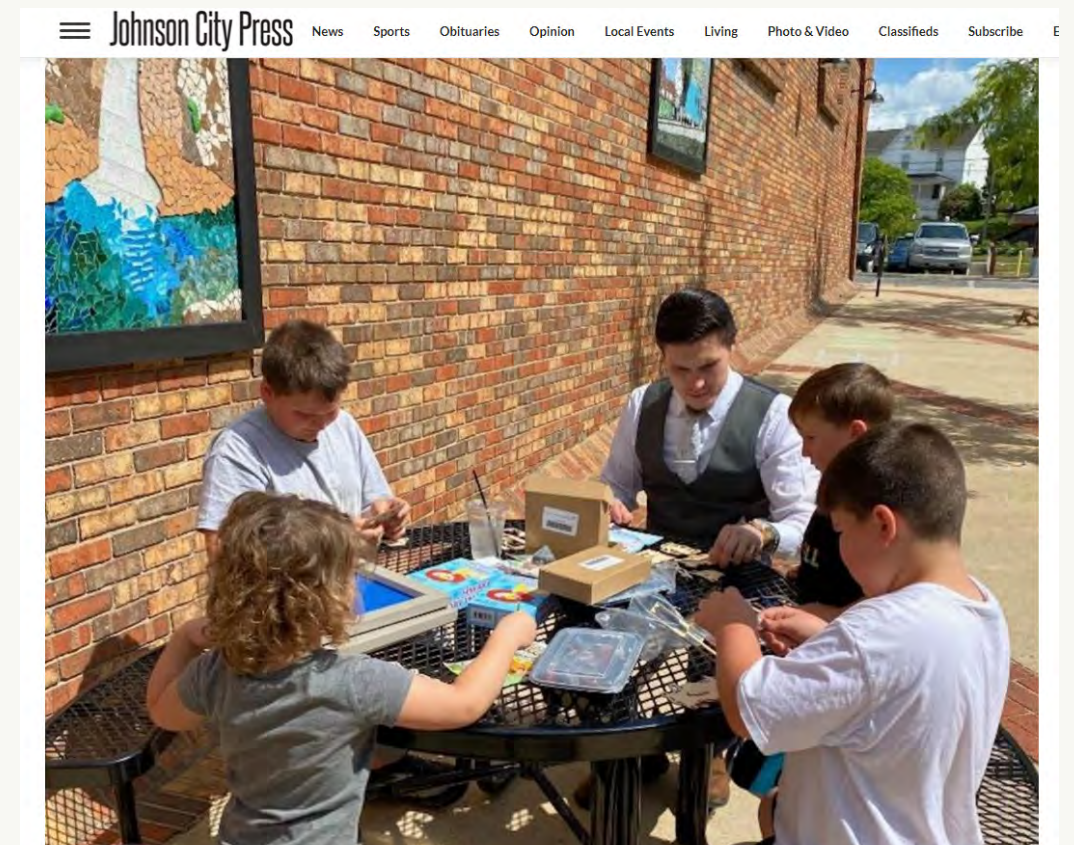
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- Senior - Interdisciplinary Studies: Business Management & Environmental Sustainability
- 5 Letters of recommendation for the 2022 36/86 Festival
- GSEA TN Regional Finalist 2021
- Eagle Works 3rd Place 2021 & Rural Reimagine Award
- 4 News articles, 4 TV Interviews, & 2 Radio Interviews
- ETSU Athletics Community hero for the month of March 2022
- TN Higher Education "Harold Love" community service nominee



INTRODUCTION

- STEM education is the 5th fastest growing industry in the South.
- Tennessee has a goal to become one of the top 25 states for STEM education. (STEM Strategic Plan [TNDOE], 2018).
- Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) and the Tennessee Department of Education (TNDOE) have outlined the need for more STEM activities in communities.
- There is a need to bridge the gap between local universities and rural public schools, with additional needs highlighted for more educators to be proficient in STEM education (TNDOE, 2018).



OBJECTIVES

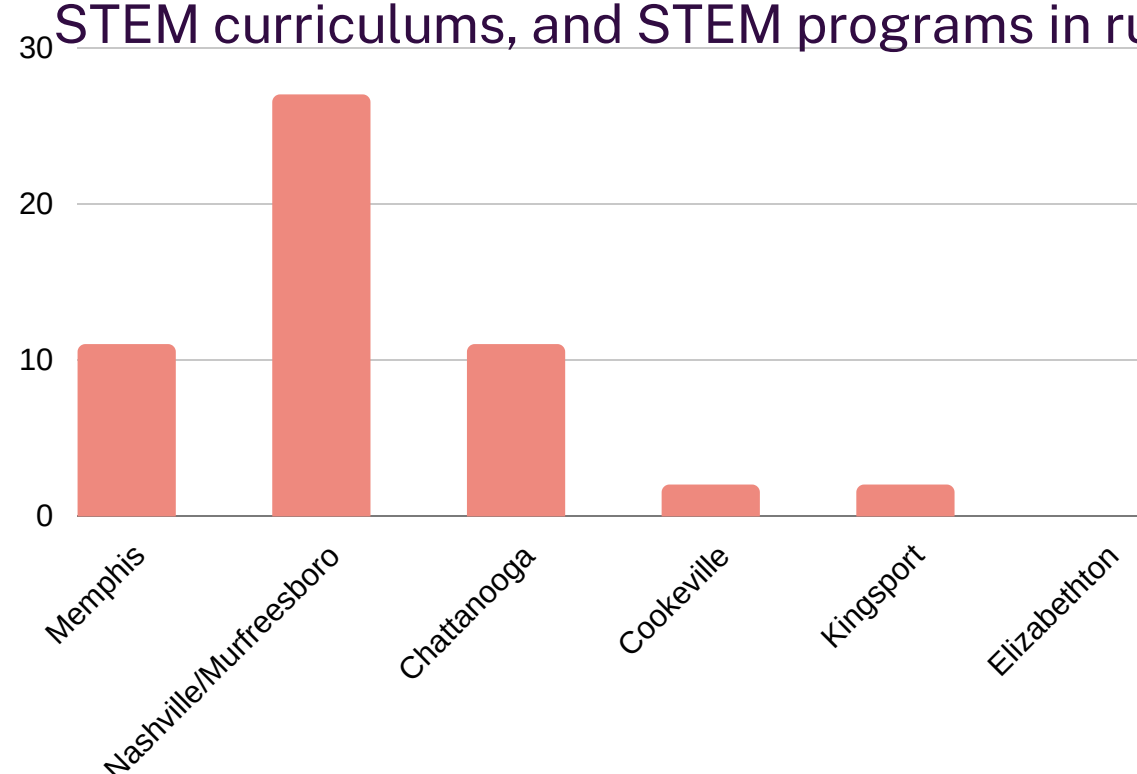
- 1) Identification of problems and solution options for STEM education activities in Carter County;
- 2) Development of an online STEM activity curriculum with tutorial videos for at-home activities, after-school program activities for three elementary partnerships, and community events; and,
- 3) Creation of connections with local universities, businesses, and schools to ensure children in Carter County have multiple options for STEM education activities.

METHODOLOGY

- Background research
- Analyzing and comparing statistics across the state levels for STEM education and ACT test scores
- TNDOE analysis documents
- Government education resources

ANALYSIS

- Large cities and surrounding Cities have roughly 14x's the number of Stem schools! (2018-2021).
- There is a detrimental lack of research for rural education, STEM curriculums, and STEM programs in rural areas!



RESULTS

- 3 After-school program partnerships
- 1st grant identification
- Meetings for Sponsorships
- Community Center STEM activities & Tutoring

RELATED LITERATURE

- (Education, 2018) - *STEM strategic Plan* - TSIN & TNDOE
- (Battelle Education, 2018-2021) -- *TSIN STEM designated schools*
- FULL CITATIONS ON FILE WITH PAPER COPY FOR HAND OUT.

CONCLUSION

- There is a **SERIOUS NEED** for more STEM activities and partnerships in rural schools and communities!
- Private organizations are needed, in order to build bridges to provide assistance in their communities and education systems.

AFFILIATIONS

