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#WeR19     

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESC19 TO HOST FIRST WEST TEXAS STEAM CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS

El Paso, TX — May 14, 2025 — The Education Service Center Region 19 (ESC19) is thrilled to announce its upcoming STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) event, scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. This engaging and educational event will take place at the Starlight Event Center, 6650 Continental Dr., providing a day full of hands-on activities, innovative workshops, and collaborative learning experiences designed primarily for educators across West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore various STEAM concepts through interactive exhibits, expert-led sessions, and creative problem-solving challenges. The event aims to spark curiosity, foster critical thinking, and inspire a love for STEAM among educators and instructional leaders.

The all-day conference will feature sessions and activities designed to enhance the STEAM experience for educators, with opportunities to earn GT credit hours by attending designated sessions. The conference will also host a distinguished group of speakers, including three keynote speakers and four featured speakers, who will provide direct insight into the interactive classroom of tomorrow.

Some of the event's highlights include a live drone demonstration during lunchtime and exhibitors such as FabLab, NASA's Mobile Exhibit Trailer, and Insights, which will host an interactive booth. La Nube will conduct two sessions.

Registration includes complimentary breakfast and lunch, ensuring participants are fueled and ready to immerse themselves in a full day of learning and professional development. College students receive 50% off the General Admission Fee of \$100. Registration is available online at: https://txr19.escworks.net/catalog/session.aspx?session_id=198040

"We are excited to present our first West Texas STEAM/STEM conference, bringing together educators and instructional leaders to discover the wonders of STEAM education," said Ernesto Herrera, the event coordinator and ESC19 Professional Development Consultant. "Our goal is to create an environment where participants can learn, create, and be inspired."

STEAM Conference Details: • Date: Saturday, May 17, 2025 • Time: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM • Location: Starlight Event Center, 6650 Continental Drive, El Paso, TX 79925 • Registration: Includes breakfast and lunch • Contact for more information: Donna Cuevas, 915-780-5064.

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STEAM

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATH

— CONFERENCE 2025 —

MEET YOUR KEYNOTES!



DR. VICTOR SAMSON

Associate Professor of STEM Education at the University of Texas, specializes in STEM education, research, and instructional design. He earned his Ph.D. from Arizona State University and has received awards, including the 2012 Early Career Award from NARST.



DR. KIM WHALEY

Teaching from Early Childhood to graduate levels, with most of her experience in fourth and fifth grades and developing an elementary science lab program. A licensed educator in Texas and New Mexico, she holds specializations in reading, ESL, social studies, science, and administration.



DR. AARON VELASCO

Dr. Aaron Velasco is a seismologist and educator at the University of Texas at El Paso and part-time State Seismologist for the Railroad Commission of Texas. His research spans earthquake modeling, hazards, seismotectonics, and nuclear treaty monitoring. Current projects include studying aftershocks in Nepal and Mexico, volcanic structures in Kenya, and local earthquakes in El Paso, along with 3-D Earth modeling and earthquake triggering mechanisms.

SCAN CODE
TO REGISTER



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SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025
SESSION #198040 • FEE: \$100



STARLIGHT
EVENT CENTER

6650 Continental Dr.
El Paso, TX 79925

STEAM

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATH

— CONFERENCE 2025 —

FEATURED SPEAKERS!



MICHELLE SEDBERRY

Statewide STEM Coordinator at the Texas Education Agency and STEM Lead for Texas EcosySTEM. With over 25 years in education, she has served as a science teacher, district administrator, and professor at Texas Tech. A published author and curriculum developer, she oversees the Texas Mobile STEM Lab and contributes to key STEM resources at TEA.



DR. SHERYL ROEHL

Dr. Roehl is the EPIC Partnership Coordinator at the Texas Advanced Computing Center's WeTeach_CS team. She supports K-12 Computer Science Pathways and provides training in Computational Thinking, Scratch, AI, and CS education. With over 30 years in education, she has worked as a STEM specialist, NSF program leader, and high school math, science, and programming teacher. She is also a Texas Instruments T3 Trainer and a Code.org facilitator.



NIGEL NISBET

Nigel Nisbet, a mathematician and former rock musician, began his teaching career in England before moving to the U.S. At Van Nuys High, he taught math, AP Physics, and AP Computer Science, pioneering tech integration and project-based learning. He led the LAUSD Virtual Academy for Algebra 1 and contributed to the AP Readiness Program in Computer Science.

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STRLIGHT
EVENT CENTER

6650 Continental Dr.
El Paso, TX 79925

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

★ *STAR SESSIONS INDICATE GT HOUR CREDIT

7:30 AM - 8:15 AM	Breakfast Served				
8:15 AM - 8:30 AM	Presentation of Colors, Welcome, and Introductions				
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Keynote Dr. Sampson at Rio Grande Room				
9:20 AM - 10:05 AM	Keynote Dr. Whaley at Rio Grande Room				
ROOMS	FEATURED RIO GRANDE (STARLIGHT)	STEAM 1 SUNSET (STARLIGHT)	STEAM 2 TRANSMOUNTAIN (STARLIGHT)	MATH PDN 3 (BLDG A)	SCI/ENGIN SCENIC DRIVE (STARLIGHT)
BREAK OUT #1 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	STEAM Excellence at Montwood High School: Our Path to National Recognition Dr. Marianne Torales, Miguel Rivera, April Hall, Tabatha Schacht (SISD)	Using Phenomena to Develop Questioning Skills, Scientific Mindsets and Curiosity Alfred Olivas (Insights)	Lights, Camera, CanvaEDU: Empowering Students to Create Collaborative Videos Karen Wright-Balbier, Arcy Aguina (EPISD Digital and Learning Resources)	Hands-On Standards: A Sneak Peak into Mini Lessons for Deeper Understanding Carol Julian (Hand2Mind)	Mission Planning with Texas High School Aerospace Scholars Angela Clayton (NASA)
BREAK OUT #2 11:10 AM - 11:55 AM	Introduction to Coding Using the Micro:bit Dr. Sheryl Roehl			Once Upon a Math Problem: Storytelling for Deeper Learning Laurie Jones Curtis (Lorena ISD)	Incorporating Phenomena Into your Science lessons! Cindy Apodaca (SISD)
12:10 PM - 1:10 PM	LUNCH and Drone DEMO and Visit Vendors				
BREAK OUT #3 1:20 PM - 2:05 PM	TEA Updates: The STEAM Landscape in Texas Michelle Sedberry (TEA)	From Guidelines to Practice: Critical AI Activities for the Classroom Melissa Warr (NMSU)	Inclusivity By Design Deana White, Gina Martinez (La Nube)	Integrating Python Programming in Mathematics Education Adrian Estorga (SISD)	Unlocking Science: The Power of Exploration! Cindy Apodaca (SISD)
BREAK OUT #4 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Productive Struggle in Math Prepares Students for Success Nigel Nisbet (Mind Education)	Curipod for 100% Student Engagement and Instant AI Feedback on STAAR Test Prep Heather Brantley (Curipod)	Little Mad Scientists Deana White, Norma Escandon (La Nube)	Math Stars Shine Bright: Free, Long-Term Support for Gifted Students Keith Hartle (National Math Stars)	Teacher-Led Innovation: Making the Case for Innovation Joseph Sapien (STTE Foundation)
3:10 PM - 4:00 PM	Closing KEYNOTE Dr. Velasco at Rio Grande Room				
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Door Prizes and Kit Distribution				

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ROOMS	LITERACY/EB PDN 2 (BLDG A)	SOC ST/TECH CLASSROOM (BLDG A)	SPECIAL EDUCATION/ TECHNOLOGY SKYVIEW (STARLIGHT)	COMPUTER SCIENCE MISSION TRAIL (STARLIGHT)	TECHNOLOGY/HEALTH PC LAB (BLDG A)
BREAK OUT #1 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	Ready to LEGO and have Fun with Critical Thinking? Paula Taylor (Discovery Ed)	Connecting Social Studies and STEAM in the Secondary Classroom Jesus Gamez (R19), Jared Gamez (SISD)	STEMming Towards Progress: Pathways for Students with Disabilities Nelson Ortega (EPISD)	Digital Innovation in STEM: Leveraging Microsoft Tools for Advanced Computational Thinking and Cross-Disciplinary Problem Solving Maria Dickerson (EPISD)	How to Get into Medical School René André (TTUHSC El Paso Foster School of Medicine)
BREAK OUT #2 11:10 AM - 11:55 AM	Unlocking Learning with Discovery Education's Sandbox AR Paula Taylor, Yazmin Castillo (Discovery Ed)	Enhancing Social Studies Instruction Through AI Tools Cynthia Martinez (R19)	STEAM and Autism Elvia Flores, Mariana Kolar (SISD)	Ignite STEAM Learning With App Smashing Justin Yopez (EPISD)	Empowering Math Instruction in Texas with Bluebonnet Learning Christy Barnett, Paige Ward (Great Minds)
12:10 PM - 1:10 PM	LUNCH and Drone DEMO and Visit Vendors				
BREAK OUT #3 1:20 PM - 2:05 PM	STEAM Activities as Language Activities for English Learners Adriane Geronimo (Midland ISD)	Building History: Hands-On STEAM for Social Studies Andrea Aguirre (EPISD)	Accommodations for Students with Special Needs Donna Day (EPISD - SPED)	The Alexander Equation and Dinosaur Behavior Brian Gillis (Insights)	Catching the Fake Face: Digital Media Literacy to Foster Digital Resilience Sparna Chatterjee, Sumanth Nandhikonda, and Rigeshe Krishnaraj (NMSU)
BREAK OUT #4 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Connecting Literacy and STEAM in the Early Childhood Classroom Maria Casas, Amy Aviña (R19)	Embracing the Future: Transformative Technologies in Education Cynthia Martinez (R19)	Meet Tech ₂ O Christopher Sanchez (Tech₂O)	Cyber Smarts: Essential Digital Safety for All Learners Frank Nolasco, Nancy Cruz, Mike Saenz (R19)	STEAM-E Data (E is for Electronic) Dennis Johnson, Amanda Die (Studies Weekly)
POSTER SESSION Ongoing	Future Ready STEAM Nights: A Collaborative Celebration @ Sand Heights Anne Thomas, Yolanda Acuña (Escontrias STEAM Academy, SISD)				
3:10 PM - 4:00 PM	Closing KEYNOTE Dr. Velasco at Rio Grande Room				
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