

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Students experience STEM summer camp virtually

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC – Many of the Lowcountry summer camps had to either cancel or adjust their plans this year. Fortunately, the organizers of the North Charleston Genius “STEM-in-a-Box” Camp were able to adjust and host a virtual experience for students last month.

Over the course of three weeks, educators who are part of the [Liberty Hill STEM K12 Initiative](#) created engaging at-home STEM activities, weekly challenges, and virtual options packaged in take-home boxes for parents to pick up (curbside) at North Charleston Elementary School at the beginning of each week. Eleven digital Charleston County School District (CCSD) campers gained hands-on experience designing airplanes, robots, and cars powered by alternative energy sources.

The camp also offered weekly Zoom sessions focused on specific themes, including the following: “Aero Action” - an Aerospace session (sponsored by Boeing); “Power Up” - comparing kinetic and potential energy (facilitated by Mercedes-Benz); “Fun in the Sun” - exploring solar energy (conducted by Cummins); and “Stage Stars” - developing communication, presentation, and leadership skills (led by Toastmasters).

The Zoom sessions with industry professionals gave students a chance to learn about the wealth of career opportunities available to them. As a result, they realized how the skills they were learning in the classroom are essential to success in the workplace.

“This year’s ‘STEM in a Box’ camp was a wonderful opportunity for our students to realize there are plenty of ways to have fun while learning about the worlds of science, technology, engineering, and math,” said Cheryl Walden, a STEM Community Engagement Specialist with the Liberty Hill K12 STEM Initiative. “We also can’t thank the students’ parents and guardians enough. They made sure their children were on the Zoom calls and had access to the materials we handed out.”

The Liberty Hill STEM K12 Initiative aims to raise awareness and increase participation for students who have been historically underrepresented in

STEM. As a result, students attending the Liberty Hill neighborhood schools (North Charleston Elementary, Morningside Middle, and North Charleston High) have the opportunity to participate in high-quality STEM programs (Project Lead the Way, STEM enrichment, robotics, and summer camps) that provide a rigorous and relevant academic and technical education in order to prepare them for the high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage STEM occupations of the 21st century global economy.

The Liberty Hill STEM team members work closely with local industry partners to stay informed of the opportunities that will be available to students upon graduation, and in turn, make sure schools and students are aware of the pathways and requirements needed for these opportunities.

“I would like to add that our community business partners came through for us on this camp as well,” explained Walden. “Their involvement added a critical component that led to what I believe was a life-changing experience for our students.”

For more information, contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.