

NSF Grant Transcript

It takes a community to develop a teacher and we work closely with our partners with the school district and also with community informal centers that do STEM education. We received a Noyce grant from the National Science Foundation to recruit and retain high quality STEM majors to be science and math teachers in our local region, for middle schools and high schools. I would like to teach high school Algebra. It's my favorite subject, and a lot of students struggle with it and I really want them to see that it's not as scary as some of them think it is. It just all, like fell in so perfectly so I'm excited to go in and like, just make Biology fun. Like, not make it about word-searches or definitions, like I want to bring Biology to life and give kids the love I had for Biology. UWF has 5 STEM programs and each one has their own curriculum that helps students become a scientist, but also an educator. It's all centered around active learning. The teacher is another inspiration for the student when they think about what they are going to do in the future, what they gonna be, who they going to be.

We work with dual enrolled students. So those are students who are high school students taking college classes. In some cases alongside our freshman and sophomores. We learn in class for a couple days and then for two days we teach kids. So kids come from around the area and each school from fifth grade, first grade, third grade. And we teach them what learned in class in a way, in different stations. It's just a different subject in either Marine Biology or Oceanography. And so we just have to take the information we learned in class and we have to learn how to take it to their level, depending on their grade level.

It's a matter of getting high-quality teachers who understand the content and understand how to teach in an engaging way to help students learn the material. It's not only about being passionate about Science and Math, but getting others passionate and getting more people involved in STEM.

We anticipate this community and this grant helping us to solidify this community a little more. To help them feel a part of something.