

What we do & Why it matters

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

DURRIYYAH BRYANT (Extension Educator, STEM-SEL)

Durriyyah Bryant provides leadership and training in social and emotional intelligence, investing in school staff, parents, students, community leaders and organizations. Her work advances our understanding of the importance of developing social and emotional skills and how it connects to academic learning. Through professional development trainings and workshops, she offers critical insight that may equip youth and adults to be globally competitive, racially and culturally competent, understand empathy, effectively manage their emotions, impact change, and forge healthy relationships.

SUSAN M. GASPER (Extension Educator, STEM – Chemistry)

Susan Gasper provides extended professional development to teachers in Cook County to help them support students in meeting the expectations put forth in A Framework for K-12 Science Education (NRC, 2012) and the resulting Next Generation Science Standards (Achieve, 2013). These documents outline the science and engineering content and skills that ALL students need to be college, career and citizenship ready.

MEGHAN MCCLEARY (Extension Educator, STEM - Engineering)

Meghan McCleary develops and delivers Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professional development for K-12 educators in Cook County. She focuses on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), providing teachers with tools, skills, and confidence to effectively teach science and engineering. McCleary helps teachers create environments for scientific literacy that prepare students for higher education, STEM careers, and making informed environmental, political, and social decisions.

KAREN MEYER (Extension Educator, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – STEM)

As a math educator for the STEM team, Karen Meyer provides resources and reinforcement to Cook County math teachers who are educating students from pre-K through 8th grade. The resources are intended to provide a supplement to the formal curriculum and capture student interest for mathematical concepts. By engaging in these activities, students learn that math can be fun and is not to be feared. Over 1500 teachers have attended these sessions in the past 2 years.

COURTNYE JACKSON (Extension Educator, Small Animal Health)

Courtney Jackson develops teacher professional development workshops for educators throughout Cook County to create, improve, and disseminate quality educative curricula that inspires successful and invaluable student learning. She also connects communities to various resources through parent and student workshops that afford educational opportunities to limited-resourced constituents.