

# Tech Center News.

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## MCC Puts Some STEAM Into Summer Camp

by Jim Stickford

Macomb Community College's Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) camp is providing area students the opportunity to stretch their science wings during the summer.

MCC Public Relations coordinator Tish Wirth said that this is the second year for the school's

STEAM camp. The event takes place over a two-week period – this year during the last week in July and the first week in August.

"We have two groups of students involved," Wirth said. "The first group is in the camp in July, the second in August. We have two sponsors – Bosch and General Motors. Their financial contribution makes this possible, so

we all want to give them a shout out and say thanks."

The students do different things each day of the week during camp, Wirth said. The activities are centered around different aspects of STEAM. On Monday, for example, they were given model rocket kits and had to engineer

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*Students from around Macomb County got to attend a special science event at MCC that taught STEAM skills.*

working rockets from those kits. On Tuesday, the activities emphasized technology, and student built robots from kits. They then had to program those robots to do different tasks.

The students come from a variety of Macomb area schools, Wirth said.

"We reached out to schools, both private and public," Wirth said. "And interested students signed up. We are a community college so we embraced as many schools in our community as possible."

The activities at camp are designed by MCC teachers, who are also on hand to help students, Wirth said. The whole idea is to give younger students, those in middle school, the chance to see how STEAM skills can help them get jobs and careers.

That's why the week ends with a visit to College Park Industry, Wirth said. It's a company across the street from the Warren campus that makes prosthetic limbs.

"That is a business that combines all the STEAM elements," Wirth said. "The limbs have to be engineered and built. That requires math and technology. And they have to look good. That's the art part of STEAM."

Evan Westendorp is a student at Faith Christian of Clinton Township. He was teamed up with Joshua Stamm of Warren Woods Christian to build a rocket.

Wirth said that part of teaching STEAM is teaching students to work together, which is why students from different schools were assigned to work together.

Westendorp said he signed up for the STEAM camp because he really likes schools.

"Honestly, I do," Westendorp said. "This camp is something that I can do during the summer, and it's fun."

Stamm said that he signed up because he likes science and considers himself something of an artist. So being able to combine both things together was an

opportunity he didn't want to pass up."

"These kids need to know what's out there," Wirth said. "By getting them young, they can see that there are careers out there for them and they can make decisions on what classes to take during high school. They can also see what MCC has to offer them in terms of both two year programs and advanced degrees. We find by giving these students problems that require hands-on solutions, we can pique their interest in STEAM careers. That's something worth doing and part of our mandate as a community college."



*Westendorp and Stamm work on a model rocket at MCC's STEAM camp.*