

Program: Marian University STEM Summer Camps

Speaker: Janice Hicks Slaughter, Director of Partnerships and Outreach, Klipsch Educators College, Marian University

Introduced by: Jeff Rasley

Attendance: 98

Guests: None

Scribe: Hank Wolfla

Editor: Bill Elliott

Today's presentation was provided by Janice Slaughter, Director of Outreach and Partnerships for the Fred S. Klipsch Educators College of Marian University. Marian University College provides a summer camps every year for approximately 100 students from the central Indiana area. The summer camps are divided into 4 age level groups from the age of 6 to 15.

Summer camps should provide mental stimulation, physical activity (2 – 30 min physical activity periods each day), reduce the “summer slide”, unplug from technology, reconnect with nature, make new friends, and have FUN. STEM is Science: the study of the natural world. Technology: any product made by humans to meet a want or need, Engineering: the design process students use to solve problems. Math: the language of numbers, shapes, and quantities. The STEM summer camp provides students with involved hands-on learning focused on real world issues and problems, where they are encouraged to learn from what went wrong and try again, Campers are given opportunities to work individually and as teams.

Workers in STEM fields are in high demand, the number of STEM occupations in the US will grow by 8.9% from 2014-2024. The IDOE released a 6 year STEM strategic plan in November, 2018.

Marian University is ideal for a STEM summer camp because it has been providing 15 year of math, science, and STEM camps. They focus on Indiana Academic Standards and employ-hands on engaging activities, in a college environment using licensed teachers. The STEM camps run for 4 weeks in June and July. The cost of the summer camp is \$240.00 per week. This fee includes all meals, snacks, and transportation.

One of the special places used by the STEM students is the 75-acre EcoLab located on Cold Springs Road.

This EcoLab is opened to the public all year round, and makes an excellent place to hike and enjoy Indiana nature.

At the end of the meeting, many of the members provided Ms. Slaughter with ideas and resources for the upcoming summer camps. Likewise, the D.J. Angus Sciencetech Foundation made a contribution this year of \$10,000 to the Marian University STEM Summer Camp.



Janis Slaughter