



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



Organization

Backbone Organization: Umpqua Valley
Community College
Counties in Region: Douglas
Sq. Miles in Region: 5,134
STEM Hub Director: Teresa Middleton
Email: teresa.middleton@umpqua.edu
Website: umpquavalleysteam.com

By the Numbers

School Districts	13
Students	14,493
Educators Participating in PD	87
Educator Hours in PD	1,021
Students Participated in Programs	4,874
Hours of Programming Offered	729
Student Hours in STEM Programs	31,458

Building Community Connections to Expand STEAM Access

The Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub leverages strategic community partnerships to deliver comprehensive STEAM education across Douglas County. Collaborations with youth-serving organizations—including the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and regional library systems—bring programming directly to spaces where students naturally congregate. Educational partnerships with the Educational Service District, Bright Futures Umpqua, childcare providers like Head Start and Yisima Cow Creek Day Care, and summer camps extend our reach to younger learners while maximizing regional resources. Industry partnerships connect students with diverse career pathways, as regional employers participate in Hub events to discuss employment opportunities and our involvement in the biannual Southern Oregon Trade Careers Expo facilitates crucial student-industry connections.

One particularly impactful collaboration partners the Hub with the local Fish Pantry, our region's food bank. Through this initiative, families receive take-home STEAM kits they can complete together, integrating educational enrichment with essential community services. These multifaceted partnerships ensure STEAM education reaches students across socioeconomic backgrounds and geographic locations throughout the region, and the Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub remains committed to identifying and developing new strategic collaborations that expand program accessibility and deepen community impact.

Expanding Math Professional Development Across the Region

When mathematics Professional Development hosted by other regional STEM Hubs reached capacity, the Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub recognized an opportunity to address significant unmet needs within our region. The Hub developed and hosted its own mathematics training series, focusing on middle school instruction. This initiative proved particularly valuable for educators from districts with some of Oregon's lowest mathematics performance indicators. Teachers who participated in two training sessions expressed genuine excitement about implementing new instructional strategies. As one participant shared, "I learned so much and I am excited to take these tools and use them in my classroom." The three-day "Making Middle School Math Engaging" training incorporated project-based learning methodologies and attracted twenty teachers from seven of the region's thirteen school districts. Significantly, all participants represented rural schools, highlighting Hub's effectiveness in reaching underserved communities. Results were exceptional: 100% of attendees reported confidence in applying the strategies learned with their students. One teacher summarized the program's impact: "I thought it was one of the best trainings that I have been to." This responsive approach demonstrates the Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub's commitment to meeting regional educator needs through strategic, locally developed professional development opportunities.



Addressing Workforce Shortages Through Strategic Partnerships

Douglas County faces critical workforce shortages in healthcare and skilled trades, mirroring statewide trends. To address these gaps, we've developed comprehensive career exposure initiatives in collaboration with our Community College and local industry partners. Our annual Healthcare and Public Safety Career Exposure Event attracted over 400 high school students from across Douglas County. Participants selected from thirty workshops led by local professionals, exploring careers in nursing, radiology, phlebotomy, physical therapy, medical assisting, forensics, and more. We're equally committed to addressing the high demand for electricians and mechanics. Through partnerships with local mills and industries, our CTE/Apprenticeship programs provide recruitment support, supplies, facility tours, and connect students and employers. Our newest initiative, the **STEAM Van**, will expand outreach capabilities significantly. This mobile unit enables us to transport specialized equipment directly to schools, offering hands-on experiences that connect to career pathways. Students will work with tools like handheld CNC routers to develop carpentry and construction skills, addressing another critical workforce need in our region. Integrated efforts like these make sure Douglas County students have access to career exploration opportunities that align with local industry demands.