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CONTACT: Superintendent Nate Parker



APS Teacher Contributes to Published Research Study on STREAM Education

Adrian, MI - Adrian Public Schools would like to recognize Natasha Wetzel, Special Education Teacher, for her continued contributions to published educational research focused on STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education.

Wetzel is a co-author of the recently published research article "*Engineering in an After-School Integrated STREAM Project: Evidence of Learning*," featured in *Cases on Informal Learning for Science and Mathematics Education*, a premier scholarly publication edited by Li Sun and Cheng-Yao Lin and published by IGI Global Scientific Publishing.

Co-authored with Dr. Vanessa Morrison and Dr. Andrea Milner of Adrian College, the study examines how third-grade students engaged in engineering practices during an after-school program where students designed and built artifacts in small, collaborative teams through open-ended, teacher-created challenges. The findings highlight how informal learning experiences outside the traditional classroom enhance students' understanding of science and engineering concepts, supporting the goals of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

This article marks the second published project by the same research team. Previously, the team examined the integration of STREAM education in Kindergarten and was featured in the IGI Global publication *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Mathematics and Science Education*. Together, these projects demonstrate the team's ongoing commitment to exploring innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning.

"This research reinforces how powerful hands-on, inquiry-based learning can be," said Wetzel. "Students thrive when they have opportunities to create, collaborate, and make real-world connections to what they're learning."

Superintendent Nate Parker praised Wetzel's accomplishment, stating, "We are incredibly proud of Natasha and her partnership with Adrian College. Her dedication to advancing STREAM learning reflects the innovative spirit of Adrian Public Schools and the high standards we set for both teaching and learning."

Both publications are available through IGI Global's online research library.

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Natasha Wetzel, M.A.