



# NEF STEM+ Academies Monthly Newsletter

## Chairman’s Message: Hello from Dr. Appu Kuttan

Working together, we all can provide STEM education opportunities for the present and future generations! As a nation, we are facing a STEM crisis. NEF and SUNY has the most cost-effective, proven, holistic STEM solution!



Contact the NEF :  
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## Hello From SUNY Potsdam

At SUNY Potsdam, we are excited about the continued energy and growth in the existing STEM+ Academies, as well as the fresh ideas and perspectives that we are gaining from our new schools. We believe that partnerships such as this are the basis for building a renewed focus on hands-on STEM learning!

- From the SUNY Potsdam Team:
- Dr. Anthony Betrus, STEM Academy Director
  - Steve Canning, Project Specialist
  - Ben Yurgartis, Institutional Research

## NEF Updates: What’s New and What’s Due?

### New

- **Somerton SD:** Congratulations on your recent Arizona State Technology grant at the middle school!
- **Barr-Reeve SD:** Congratulations for winning a STEM Acceleration Grant! Go Ms. Huff and team!
- **PA Round 2 Grants Announced:** visit <https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/SchoolGrants/PAsmart/Pages/1920targetedgrants.aspx> to view the recipients of the second round of PAsmart Targeted Grants
- **NEF for 2020-2021:** As we go about completing the year, thanks for so many of you indicating a strong interest in budgeting for NEF for next school year. Let Dr. Ullah know if you need a quote to carry forward as your budget development is beginning for next year.

### Due

- **Mid-Year Reports and Materials:** Due January 31, 2020.
- **Updates to the Reporting Process: Mid Year Report 2019-2020 Dates:** All Mid Year reporting materials ( incentives, stipends etc) need to be submitted in your Google Drive folder by 1/31. Mid year conferences with Tony and Dr. Ullah will be scheduled 2/5, 2/6, 2/11, 2/12, 2/13, 2/18, 2/19, and 2/20. A note will be sent out by month’s end to sign up for a 30 min slot.
- As always upload media from your programs as well before the end of the year. Love to see what is going on out there!

## STEM News of the Month

### Mining for Gifted Students in Untapped Places

Added: December 13, 2019

When Cellini Eastman searches for potentially gifted students, she defies convention.

Eastman bypasses the impeccable report cards and off-the-charts test scores—there are already programs set up for those students.

She wants to find bright children who don’t stand out in a traditional classroom.

Go To : <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/12/12/mining-for-academic-talent-in-untapped-places.html>



visit [stemnef.org](http://stemnef.org)

## Photos of the Month for January : Washington-Nile, PA

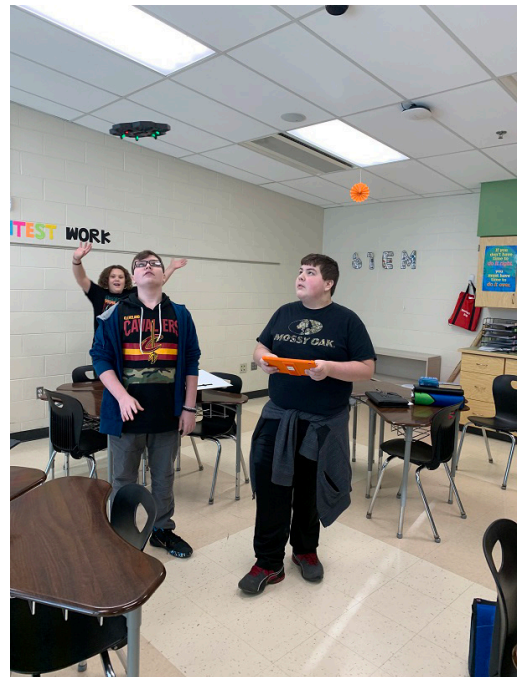
### Academy Info

**Academy Director:** Ben Johnson

**Superintendent:** Tony Bazler

**STEM+ Academy Programs Used:** GradPoint, Digital Literacy Course, NEFU Courses

**Total Students:** 140



## Academy Spotlight for January : Brocton School District , NY

### Academy Info

**Superintendent:** Jason Delcamp

**Academy Director:** Jodi Huber

**STEM+ Academy Programs Used:** Success-Maker, GradPoint, Digital Literacy Course, NEFU Courses

### Academy Background

This is Brocton's third year working alongside the NEF since being introduced to the program in November 2017. As an academy, Brocton is continuing to work with the Successmaker program as well as utilize GradPoint, Digital Literacy Courses, and NEFU Courses.

### STEM+ Academy Awareness

Brocton School District works hard to communicate the presence of the NEF and associated programs to their district and community.



### Academy Director Comments:

"This year we have added Gradpoint, Airblock drones, and Minecraft and the students could not be more happy and engaged while learning! We are continuing to use Successmaker, with many students making great gains and personal growth, while working for fun incentives like movie, slime, and pool parties, as well as prizes like tablets, STEM kits, and a hoverboard. Our school is also using the Ozobots that we in the past received as part of our partnership with NEF, and classes are integrating them into their current curriculum. Our primary students have been coding Ozobots to knock down pins to learn about subtraction, while older students have done breakout style Ozobot games solving division problems to reveal codes to complete and Ozobot pathway. These students are currently designing their own Ozobot Division Breakout games and pathways to challenge their friend! This year, the elementary students have also started coding in the computer classes using the Code.org curriculum. We are looking forward to doing more with robotics at the secondary level when we introduce Airblock drones later this winter. Finally, the entire district has had the opportunity to pilot VR headsets and journey all over the world and beyond with Google Expeditions. We are having a STEM-tastic year!"

*-from Jodi Huber, Brocton SD Academy Director*