

Title: NevadaTech Continues to Bring Science Alive

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Abstract:

Teacher retention is critical to address teacher shortages, and COVID impact in k-12 schools has discouraged college students from pursuing education degrees. Science Alive currently partners with the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Education through their dual degree program, NevadaTech, to support pre-service students with internships. Science Alive seeks to continue the partnership, to train and mentor two NevadaTech preservice teachers to augment and facilitate STEM activities for formal and informal underserved student populations in Nevada. Practicing these skills while in a supportive structure prepares preservice teachers for real-world curriculum development and teaching, and additionally improves student retention. This project will strengthen northern Nevada's ability to foster competent STEM educators by training preservice teacher's skills to augment NASA-related content, then bring NASA-rich STEM activities to both formal (in school) Title I classrooms and informal (out-of-school time) programs at Nevada Public Libraries and Family STEM nights. Activities and kits will be sustained in the Science Alive curriculum library for continuous augmentation and facilitation of NASA educational resources.