

STEM Central Title III Newsletter

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Contact Information

Ashley Winger, Title III Activity Director
p. 620-276-0420
e. ashley.winger@gcccks.edu
a. 801 Campus Drive, Garden City, KS
w. www.gcccks.edu/academics/title_iii.aspx



Title III Year 2 Objectives

Our grant team is busy working on this year's objectives:

1. By Fall 2023, at least 75% of Cybersecurity Year 1 pilot students will earn grades of C/+ and re-enroll the following year.
2. By Fall 2023, at least 75% of STEM Online Course Phase 1 pilot students will earn grades of C/+.
3. By Fall 2023, at least 75% of STEM Tutoring and Summer Program Year 2 pilot participants will earn grades of C/+ in their courses.
4. By Fall 2023, at least 75% of Articulation Program Phase 1 participants will complete transfers plans and re-enroll the following year.
5. By Fall 2023, GCCC FTE enrollment will increase at least 2% over 1,515 in baseline 2019.

Our grant year runs from October 1st-September 30th





Furniture for STEM Hub

On March 22nd, the Title III grant team held a student focus group in the Beth Tedrow Student Center (Endowment Room) with student representatives from our leadership organizations to review furniture proposals for the new STEM hub being added to the existing math and science building. Students were provided an opportunity to see a couple of presentations to discuss options, placement, and provide feedback for the new classrooms, collaboration areas, study rooms, and laboratory.

All feedback was communicated back to vendors and administration for consideration in the final purchasing of the furniture for this project.

A special thank you to Vice President Marc Malone for providing lunch for this event.

Construction Update

We're still on schedule for an August opening. Masonry is in progress; partitions are 95% complete with drywall installation starting this coming Monday. Once school is out the connection to the existing building to new facility will happen.

The week of May 12th there will be a shutdown of electricity for part of campus to install a new transformer. This should take a week to complete.

-Author, Gary Dick, Dick Construction, Inc.



MINECRAFT



Upcoming Event

STEM Summer Camp

We will be collaborating with FHSU faculty this year for our annual summer day-camp from June 13th-15th.

Camp is free for juniors and seniors in high school as well as incoming GCCC freshman or next year sophomores looking to explore computer networking, cybersecurity, and programming using Minecraft.

[Click here to register!](#)

Title III Position Available

STEM Outreach Coordinator

Come join our team! Collaborate with faculty and staff in developing programs to inform residents about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), new GCCC STEM program requirements, and STEM opportunities through projects and course development by facilitating partnerships with all stakeholders. This position will work closely with all Title III grant staff and GCCC instructors on securing partnership opportunities within the field of STEM. *[Click here to apply!](#)*



New Instructor Position Available

Crop Production Instructor

Garden City Community College's Technical Education division seeks an experienced agriculture professional who is passionate about helping students further their educational and career goals. This is a full-time 172-day contract position under the direction of the Dean of Technical Education. The primary assignment is to provide instructional services and learning facilitation for students in the Technical Education Division by teaching a variety of agriculture and crop production related courses.

[Click here to apply!](#)



Global STEM News

NASA's Artemis II Astronauts Named

Four astronauts will be the first humans to fly to the moon in more than 50 years.

Four astronauts who will travel to the moon was unveiled by NASA on Monday, April 3rd. The crew of Artemis II, which will travel around the moon for 10 days before returning to Earth, will be made up of three Americans and one Canadian.

The group will become part of the legendary group of American astronauts who traveled to the moon between 1968 and 1972 as part of the Apollo program.

NASA launched the Artemis I mission in November of last year as a test rocket and an unmanned Orion spacecraft, making it possible for Artemis II, the first of NASA's newest lunar missions. Not until at least November 2024 will it take off.

Click [here](#) for the full article featured in The New York Times.



Local STEM News

Deadly Fungus

CDC warns of a deadly fungus spreading in U.S. hospitals.

The American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a warning that *Candida auris* is spreading in American hospitals at an alarming rate. The number of isolated cases tripled between 2020 and 2021, reaching 4,041. Despite not typically posing a threat to healthy individuals, those who are seriously ill or immunocompromised are more likely to contract *C. auris*, which has a mortality rate of between 29 and 53%, according to the World Health Organization.

Click [here](#) for the full article with a video featured by The Daily Herald Tribune.



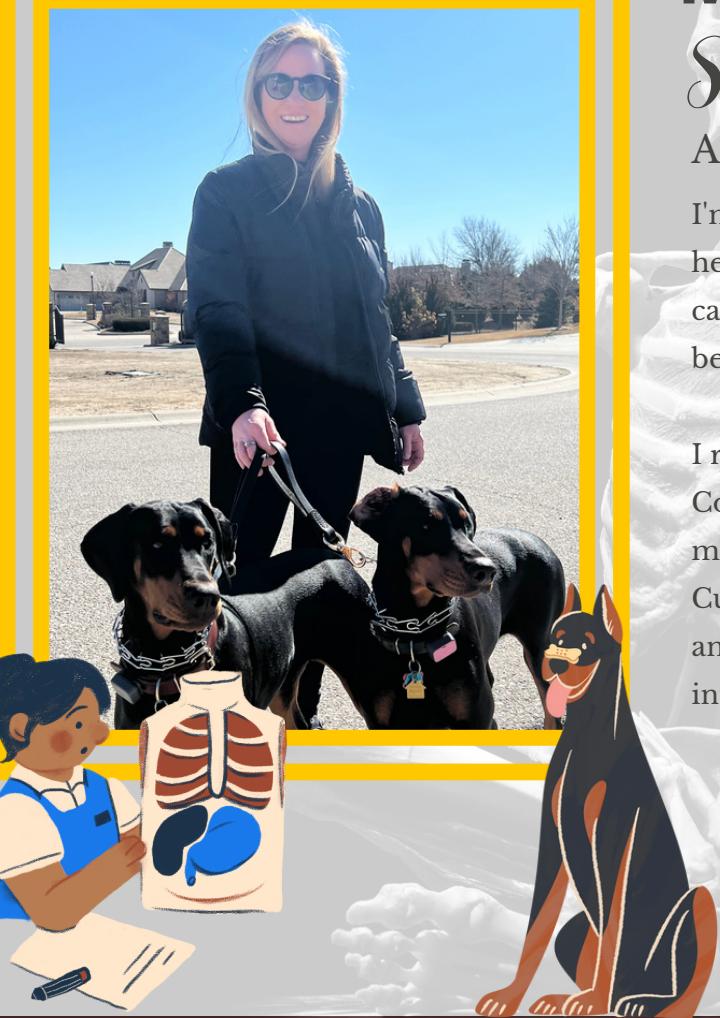
Meet Our Faculty & Staff

Sara Gault

Associate Professor of Science

I'm originally from Liberal, KS and have worked in healthcare for 20 years, with my specialties including cardiac, pulmonary, diabetes, and plastics. Additionally, I've been teaching college students for 11 years.

I received my Associates of Science from Seward County Community College, then completed my bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Wichita State University. Currently, I'm teaching Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Human Dissection. My hobbies and interests include my Dobermans, traveling, and cooking.



Mazen Nairat

Associate Professor of Science

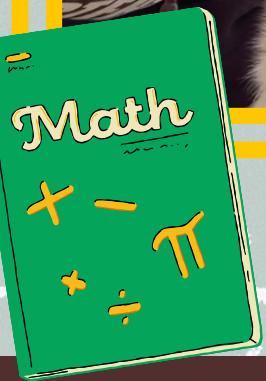
I have PhD in Physics from New Mexico State University. I teach General Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Physics. I am always attracted to spectacular science as well as innovative technology.



Perla Salazar

Associate Professor of Math

I'm Mexican American born and raised in Mexico but have now lived in Southwest Kansas. I'm really close to my family and love spending time at home with my husband, parents, brother, and my two baby girls (dogs). This is my tenth year of teaching. I started teaching Geometry and Algebra 1 at the high school but have been teaching math at GCCC for the past seven years. While at GCCC I have taught all the developmental courses, as well as College Algebra, Statistics, Discrete Math, Calculus 1, and Calculus 2. Seeing my students grow and succeed is super rewarding and I cannot wait to see where they all will go next! My hobbies include going to the movies, making waffles, and walking my doggies!



Thuy Nguyen

Associate Professor of Math

I've attended Seward County Community College, Fort Hays State University, and Wichita State University. I earned a master's in applied mathematics at WSU. After I graduated from WSU in 2015, I taught there for 2 semesters (Fall/summer) before I started working at GCCC full time. This is my seventh year working here as a math instructor. I have taught a variety of math courses such as College Math, Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Fundamentals of Calculus, and Calculus I.

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Janice Urie

Tutoring Coordinator

Currently, I serve as the Tutoring Coordinator for the Comprehensive Learning Center. I enjoy working with math students, tutors, and staff members. I hold a BS in Organizational Management and Leadership from Friends University in Wichita.

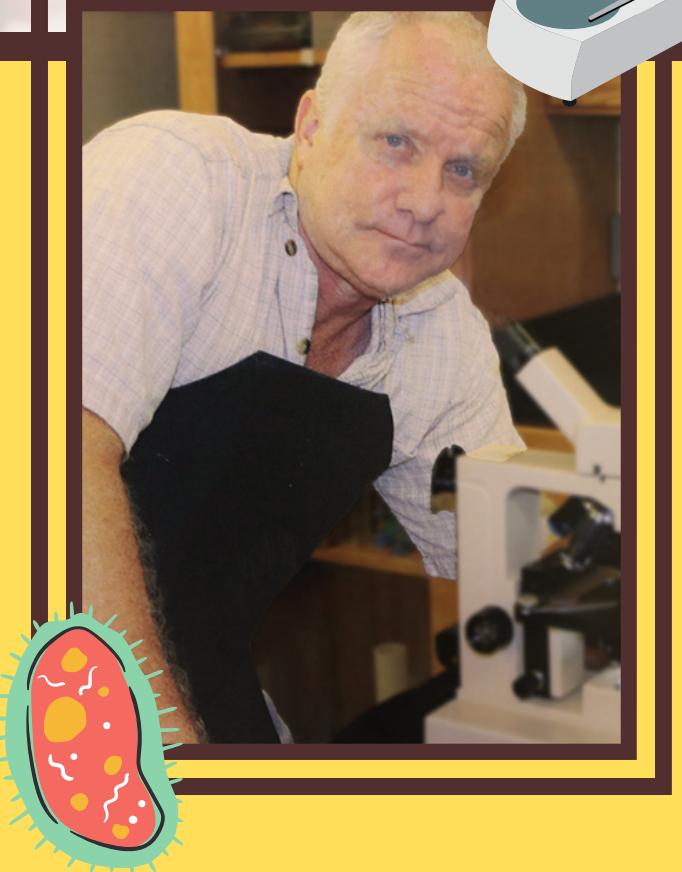
I'm the proud mother of four adult children, with eight grandchildren. I also dabble in several arts and crafts including stained glass construction, quilting, and gardening.



John Schafer

Professor of Science

I was born in Iowa, but primarily grew up in Colorado. I graduated from Colorado State with an undergraduate degree in Biology. Upon moving to Kansas, I attended Fort Hays State University where I received my master's degree in Biology. I moved to Garden City in 1989 and began my teaching career with USD 457. During my 13 years with the Garden City School District, I taught Life Science at Kenneth Henderson Jr. High, then transferred to the high school where I also taught Life Science courses. I have been teaching Life Science at Garden City Community College for 21 years. I enjoy mountain climbing in Colorado, bike riding, and gardening.





Jonathan Whitacre

Associate Professor of Math

I received my bachelors and masters of science from Youngstown State University (Youngstown, OH). I'm teaching College Math, Beginning/Intermediate/College Algebra, Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus. I enjoy watching/playing sports and attending as many GC3 events as possible.

We have fostered 12 long term kids, adopting 2 of them and fostered 17 others short term. We have hosted 10 foreign exchange students and 3 internationals for a school year (10 countries total). We have also hosted over 50 other foreigners at our house (some repeated countries, but 26 additional countries).

Cory Kristalyn

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

I was born in Wisconsin and by the age of 7 I had lived in Indiana and Minnesota before finally pausing for 10 years to live in North Dakota. During the summer between my Junior and Senior year of high school we moved to Kansas. From there I attended Pittsburg State University to complete my undergraduate in Chemistry. I then completed my Doctorate degree at the University of Michigan. Afterwards I moved back to Kansas and worked in manufacturing for Russell Stover Chocolates for 12 years before returning academia in January 2023 to start teaching General Chemistry and Physical Science at GCCC. My hobbies include reading, models and playing games with my two sons.

