Verizon STEM Achievers Program @ Cal State LA Newsletter JULY 7, 2023

Hello Verizon STEM Achievers! We had an exciting second week and hope this newsletter allows you to learn more about what we did.

We are committed to serve students and families to promote access to technology and quality STEM education. We are looking forward to seeing what students continue achieve and create in our STEM-Infused lessons.

- Dr. Jessica Morales-Chicas

Program Reminders and Updates

The last day of our summer session is **July 14th, 2023 (Friday).**

Our culminating ceremony will take place on **July 14th, 2023** (Friday) from **2:30pm-4:00pm** in **Golden Eagle Ballroom 1 & 2**. Given our space constraints, only **2 guests are allowed per student.** Parking will be in lot C and will need to be purchased at the pay-by-space kiosk at the lot.

Please remember to email Dr. Morales-Chicas for any excused absence at: jmora163@calstatela.edu

What we learned this week:

Theme 1 (Mentoring):
- Adaptability
- Individuality within groups
- Creativity and Imagination
- Critical Thinking

Theme 2 (Immersive Media):
- Model and code VR Stories in CoSpaces
- Recreating scenes from Hansel & Gretel using CoSpaces
- Using images to create a 360 tour in CoSpaces
- Utilize CoBlocks to make the tour interactive or automated

Theme 3 (Digital Product Innovation):
- Define architecture and scale
- Recreate a scale model of the Parthenon in TinkerCAD
- Define ergonomic and organic
- Prototype, 3D model, and 3D print an ergonomic pencil grip

Theme 4 (Smart Solutions):
- Use “If/Else” statements to encrypt information
- Using Micro:bit devices, create a wireless emergency communication device for the Atlantis Expedition
- Use advance coding features like if statements, while loops, and variables to code Micro:bit games

Theme 5 (Artificial Intelligence & Robotics):
- Work with other teams to draw a map for the Sphero RVR (robot)
- Program the Sphero RVR to drive autonomously with block coding
- Create a program to navigate various levels of maps/courses calculating distance, speed, and angle of turn

Week 2 Student Spotlight

Meet Sofia Gonzalez!

"I'm liking the program because we learn new things like coding and 3D printing. We are working creating a story on CoSpaces about Hansel and Gretel. That's the assignment we're working on right now. I want to do this project; it looks exciting because I get to code. When I grow up, I want to be a surgeon so I can help people." - Sofia Gonzalez

Meet Janet Moran!

"I like the program so far, it's pretty fun. The most fun part has been making new friends and doing stuff like using the computer lab. Usually, we code stuff like games or worlds. We coded a game of rock, paper, scissors, and a game of hot potato. We're working on creating the underwater world of Atlantis. When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian because I like animals." – Janet Moran

Meet Kiara Felix!

"The program is good, I really enjoy it. We were working on a new invention that we could do. My invention would be the "Forever dog," or a dog that would live to the human life expectancy. In my coding class we're working with the Microbits to send messages to each other. In our AR/VR class, we recently just used the merge cube to have our "all about me" poster be shown. The project I like the most has been the 3D printing project. I really want to print my grandma's dog because she recently passed away. I just need to figure out how to print it so that it would be able to stand up. When I grow up, I want to be a NASA rocket designer." – Kiara Felix

Us in Action!