Technology Management gets kids jazzed about math

This fall the Technology Management Department made efforts to spark the love of math in Westridge Elementary 6th graders by inviting them to campus for a math scavenger hunt.

The event was part of UVU’s University Project for Civic Engagement, an initiative aimed at encouraging UVU faculty and students, as well as community partners, to engage in service learning, volunteering and literacy and numeracy projects.

Anne Arendt, an assistant professor in Technology Management who coordinated the event, set up a math scavenger hunt for the students that incorporated math problems in different scenarios. The questions were created to be as relevant as possible in order to show students the importance of learning math.

Arendt said she wanted students to walk away with the message that math plays a role in virtually any career, although the type of math practices may differ based on the field. Math, though, is relevant, important and can even be fun.

“We chose this activity to demonstrate with real-world examples the role that math plays in a vast array of fields,” she said. “Math is not just for people who want to be engineers or rocket scientists, but for those who want to build homes, modify cars, create new technologies, or even work in design or radio stations.”

Last year and this year, the project has been focusing on improving math and reading skills among local schoolchildren, to prepare them to compete in the global marketplace.

CTE News

The CTE department is now accepting Carl D. Perkins Act project proposal submissions for fiscal year 2014-15. Applications will be accepted through April 5, 2014.

Although not required, it is strongly recommended that all proposed projects for professional development, outreach or career pathway projects also be submitted before April 5.

Information on how to apply, and to determine if your project or program is qualified to receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins Act, is available here. Please review the Steps to Apply and Appropriate Use of Perkins Funds. For questions call Ext. 7221.
This month the Women of UVU Club, along with the Women’s Success Center are looking for help to bring holiday cheer to Legacy High, a Springville high school for teen mothers.

The number of Utah women pursuing degrees and certificates in STEM is one of the lowest in the nation. That said, 62 percent of Utah women work for pay compared to 60 percent nationally.

Moreover, with a slightly higher divorce rate in Utah, when compared to the nation, many women are the sole provider for their families.

Therefore, women in Utah need the education that will provide an opportunity to deliver a sustainable income and maximize their time away from home and children.

"Women who have a career in STEM earn 33 percent more than those in non-STEM jobs."

Careers in STEM are often able to do just that. According to a U.S. Department of Commerce report, although women fill close to half of all jobs in the US economy, they hold less than 25 percent of STEM jobs. However, women who do have a STEM career earn 33 percent more than women in non-STEM jobs.

Thus, STEM careers provide more employment opportunities for women, less unemployment and higher pay.

This is an important message CTE has been making efforts to spread to women. And though many of the STEM areas are nontraditional for women, many of those in such industries say not only do women thrive in those careers but they provide for more flexible time and a better quality of life for their families.

Susan Thackeray, CTE Director for CTE, who assists with the project.

Club members are currently in the process of gathering donations and gifts for each student-mom and child and are looking for items such as baby blankets, gift certificates, diapers of all sizes, pajamas and much more.

The club has trees in the Student Center, as well as near the Women’s Success office, where participants can choose an ornament and help a child or mother have a special Christmas.

If you are unable to pick up an ornament from the trees, any donation of necessary and related items would be appreciated.

There are 35 moms and 37 babies – ages birth to four years old - included in the project. Club members will be assembling the packages during the first part of December so please have your donations submitted to the Women Success Center Office in LC 303 by Dec. 6.

CTE Information

The CTE department supports and provides opportunities for students to acquire and use high-quality technical and career skills through focused, engaged learning to prepare them for meaningful employment in a competitive global workforce.