



NEWS RELEASE

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SCCOE full STEAM ahead during inaugural symposium

SAN JOSE, CA – Leading with imagination, innovation and integration was the theme during the [first annual STEAM symposium](#) hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education on Friday and Saturday. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan kicked off the multiday event with a welcome during the presymposium on Friday. Board of Education member Grace Mah was also in attendance.

“Our STEAM team’s goal is to promote high-quality, integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics in instruction,” she said that morning. “And that focus helped build the program full of rich activities and conversations that you see scheduled throughout the event.”

Friday morning, Dr. Maureen Carroll and Dr. Amber Levinson co-presented an interactive keynote address focused on the design-thinking process – an innovative, human-centered approach to defining and solving complex problems. After the address, participants split up and attended engaging hands-on field experiences at nine different locations.

“The goal was to showcase the work of the STEAM team in the county by highlighting the teacher’s programs and/or partnerships over the past two years,” STEAM Director Cecilio Dimas said. “The field experiences were connected to our partners or our direct work.”

Options ranged from technology integration at Alta Vista Elementary School to project-based learning at Bullis Charter School, Silicon Valley Career Technical Education, The Tech Museum in Partnership with Meadows Elementary School, James Lick Observatory and more.

During the symposium on Saturday, there were two renowned keynote presenters. Dr. Ken Wesson talked about creativity and the brain and Dr. Eric Mazur challenged us to rethink how we assess students and our learning outcomes, especially with student engagement. Participants were also able to attend workshops facilitated by our keynote speakers in the afternoon and receive deeper learning opportunities for integrated learning.

Dimas said there were many highlights of the symposium, but especially enjoyed “the high energy and high enthusiasm of the participants engaging with the keynotes and engaging with each other,” he said. “It was rewarding for the participants to see firsthand what STEAM can look like, and help teachers gather resources in their journey with STEAM education.”