

A Note from the Executive Director



We're cooking with gas!

As students and teachers take a much-needed break from online schooling, our volunteers are *cooking with gas* this summer as they eagerly prepare for what will hopefully be a slightly more normal-looking school year ahead.

Our **STEM Team** members are meeting face-to-face with some school administrators to get an early start on how Alliance volunteers can support their STEM needs during the 2021-2022 school season. They're also looking forward to

working with students in their classrooms next year to engage them in a real-time science investigation. Our **Adopt-A-School Team** is gearing up for the month-long summer STEM programs at Nina Otero Community School as well as Sciencepalooza, a "pop-up" STEM event taking place on June 18. And our **Volunteer and Teacher Community Action Team** is looking at new ways to expand our **Adopt-A-Scientist Program** so that more Santa Fe Public School students and their teachers can benefit from having an Alliance working in their classroom all year.

School starts on August 6, less than eight weeks away, and we thank all of you for helping us move through this unusual year. We look forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with the Santa Fe Public Schools, as they transition with new leadership and a new District Science Coordinator. Thanks for keeping our work on your "front burner" by reading about our latest activities and learning more about our humble beginnings as we begin to celebrate a milestone as a volunteer-led STEM organization, inspiring the scientist in every student for nearly 15 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Smogor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Smogor, Executive Director



Throughout June, approximately 80 K-5 students will engage in STEM activities at Nina Otero Community School's **21st Century Summer Program**, one of the largest summer programs in the Santa Fe Public Schools. Alliance volunteers will keep STEM on the front burner for the young, curious scientists and explorers by leading sessions ranging from math to orienteering, the human body, insects, water and paper rockets and much more. Many of the activities will occur outdoors, where kids connect with nature and learn more about where they live and play. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, each student will also receive a science journal for documenting the information shared in the sessions and "ah-ha" moments throughout the Nina summer program. These journals are key components to student learning by reinforcing students' writing and observation skills and building STEM vocabulary.

In addition to leading STEM sessions, the Alliance also will host "**Sciencepalooza**" on June 18 to immerse kids in a full day of hands-on learning activities. Kids will rotate through STEM stations on life science, computer science and the properties of light. Thanks to Pizza 9 on Airport Road, kids will also be treated to a pizza party for lunch.

Back in Person



The Santa Fe public school district is presently planning for in-person classes in the fall. We expect that there will be many in-person STEM Fairs in the schools again. In anticipation of this, SFAS will be restarting some in-classroom training sessions with students, to give them a better idea of how to design a good STEM Fair project. We will focus on the fourth and fifth grades, with separate demonstration projects for each. For the fourth grade, we have a simple experiment that measures momentum transfer and involves the students in the process. For the fifth grade, we have an

experiment to measure the period of a pendulum. Doug Lonngren and Barb Bianchi developed these projects a few years ago, and they fit well with the school curriculum while demonstrating to the students how to do an experiment.

SFAFS will be looking for volunteers to go into the classrooms and perform the demonstration experiments. We will have a training session or two for volunteers, to prepare them for these demonstration experiments. School will start in early August, and we hope to have the STEM Fair season organized and moving early this year.

If you are not already an SFAFS volunteer and any of this sounds interesting, you can go to the Alliance website and sign up to become a volunteer. If you are already a volunteer and could participate in classroom experiments this fall, watch your inbox for more details to come.

--STEM Fair Team

From Scampering to Scamping: A Tribute to Chari Kauffman, Santa Fe Public School District Science Coordinator



The Scamper Technique is a creative brainstorming tool that educators use to help kids think outside of the box and promote creative thinking. It's a perfect term to sum up the essence of Chari Kauffman, who's retiring from the Santa Fe Public Schools after 22 years as a classroom teacher, three years as a STEM coach and five years as the district's Science Coordinator.

[MORE](#)



Humble Roots With Grand Aspirations

The Santa Fe Alliance for Science was co-founded in 2005 by Robert ("Bob") Eisenstein, a university-based nuclear and particle physicist, and Susan McIntosh, a local elementary school teacher. Their shared vision was to improve STEM education in Santa Fe and boost the perception of science and mathematics within the community. The Alliance was formally incorporated as a non-profit in 2006.

With the help of several retired STEM professionals, the Alliance launched its Santa Fe Science Cafés for Young Thinkers series for middle and high school students in November 2006. The following year, the Alliance joined forces with the Santa Fe Public School's science fair program by recruiting judges and providing classroom presentations on the nature of inquiry-based science. Nine SFPS elementary and middle schools (out of 25) participated in the 2007-2008 science fair season and roughly 614 projects were judged.

This year, we celebrate our 15th year supporting STEM education in Santa Fe. For a look back at our roots, read [Bob's 2013 article](#) from the American Physical Society newsletter. Our latest [annual report](#) provides a snapshot of who we are today. Join us this year in celebrating our past accomplishments and our plans for the future.

Thank you to the generous individuals who support our work,
and to the following organizations and businesses
who make this all possible.



- Buckman Family Fund
- Celia Lipton Farris & Victor W. Farris Foundation
- Covid-19 Response Fund
- Las Campanas Community Fund
- Susan & Conrad De Jong Fund



Help us to inspire more young STEM learners
by making a gift today!

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