

STEAM Stories

Inspire a **FUTURE STEAM PIONEER**

Introduction

My name is Crystal Barnett-Sheaves, and as a middle school science teacher, I aim to **break the stereotypes of STEAM careers**. In collaboration with Building Bridges to Careers (BBC2) and the Ohio Rural Teacher Fellowship, I have been working on **creating personal connections between middle school students and those who are passionate STEAM professionals**.

Objective

Inspire the next generation of STEAM pioneers by creating a collection of personal stories that **showcase a variety of STEAM careers** from right here in the Mid-Ohio Valley and beyond that will allow students to see themselves as future STEAM pioneers as they develop their own identity and curiosity about current and future STEAM exposures.

Inspire

Passionate STEAM professionals can help by sharing their stories. We welcome all levels of experience and expertise including undergraduate students, graduate students, post-docs, professors, industry professionals, government employees, educators, healthcare professionals, engineers, and more.

Project Details

The project began in 2022 and continues to grow with exciting opportunities to help middle school students connect to real-world STEAM careers. We would love for you to inspire the next generation of STEAM pioneers by sharing your story. **This is a one-time commitment, however, your stories will continue to inspire for many generations**. To share your story you will follow writing prompts to create a letter addressed to a future STEAM pioneer. Your stories will be used in the classroom in many different ways and the information you provide will be used to create classroom posters. If you wish you may also create a short video, audio, and or be available to present to a classroom.



MORE INFORMATION or
TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY

cbarnett-sheaves@mariettacsdo.org



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Dear **FUTURE STEAM PIONEER**

Share Your Story

We are so excited you are ready to share your STEAM story. The best way to get started is to simply **start typing your story by combining elements of storytelling and letter writing**. The guidelines below will help you get started, however, are not meant to limit your creativity. Once your letter is complete you will send it along with your digital pictures so we can begin the process of creating a poster and adding your story to a database. **This database will be used to introduce students to a wide variety of STEAM careers, pathways, and stories of STEAM professionals who are just like them.**



Prompt #1 Introduce Yourself

Begin your letter with **a glimpse into your world by allowing the students to see your life beyond work**. You can do this by including information about your family, hobbies, where you grew up, something that makes you unique, what you enjoyed as a child, etc.  **Be sure to include several pictures that give them a little glimpse into your life. Also include picture(s) of you for the poster profile.**

Prompt #2 Describe Your Career

Use student-friendly language to describe your career and how it relates to STEAM. Define vocabulary students may not be familiar with. **For many of these students, it is difficult to connect STEAM to a job and our goal is to introduce them to a variety of real-world examples**. Include why and or how you choose your career along with what you enjoy most and what may be some not-so-exciting aspects of your job. Try to give the students a glimpse into a “typical” day, month, or year in your profession. Please also share with students what job(s) you held throughout your lifetime and how those jobs helped you learn skills that are valuable in your current job.

Be sure to include several pictures that will give them a visual of what you do. 



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Prompt #3 Detail Your Education Journey

Share your journey to higher education starting with at least your middle school years. Let students know what kind of student you were; it is perfectly okay to be honest! If you were not the best student, talk about it and provide a self-reflection. **Let students know about crucial skills you learned in middle school and high school that helped in college and/or your current job.** Please consider that for many of the students, hearing how you may have spent many years after high school studying for your profession could seem very daunting and something they may be unsure of. So we encourage you to share your perspective on how **higher education can be exciting and how it is different from middle school.**  **Be sure to include several pictures along with information about your alma mater(s) that will give them a visual of what you do.**

Prompt #4 Share Obstacles

Let students know that everyone faces obstacles by sharing a time(s) you had to persevere when faced with a challenge. Only share what you are comfortable with sharing and don't share anything that may be too upsetting to a student. Here are some suggestions to help you formulate a response:

- Describe an obstacle you faced while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Describe a challenge you thought was previously impossible and how a change in mindset helped you overcome the challenge.
- Describe a situation when you became comfortable in a place you felt you didn't belong at first, or with people you thought wouldn't accept you. How did you feel, what happened to allow you to overcome those feelings?
- Reflect on your time as a middle or high school student. What challenges did you face and what did you learn about yourself?
- Tell a story of the most difficult thing you've ever accomplished. What made it so difficult, and how did you change or grow as a result?

 **Pictures for this section are optional.**



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Dear **FUTURE STEAM PIONEER**

Prompt #5 Reflect & Inspire

Bring your letter to a close with some encouragement! You may use the following:

- Reflect on your life and career.
- Share a favorite quote or positive affirmation.
- Share what strategies you have for when life gets difficult.
- Share suggestions or ideas to help make dreams come true.
- Share your hopes and dreams for future STEAM Pioneers.





Pictures for this section are optional.



Include a digital signature.

Send Your Story

Congratulations on completing your STEAM story, we can't wait to share it. Please go over the checklist below and the directions for sending your story.

- ✓ **Letter in the format of your choice; Google Doc, Microsoft Word, or PDF.**
- ✓ **Digital pictures for prompts.** 
- ✓ **Digital signature.** 
- ✓ **Email your STEAM Story to cbarnett-sheaves@mariettacsdo.org and include the following:**
 - ✓ Subject Line "STEAM Story".
 - ✓ First and Last Name along with any Post -Nominals you may hold.
 - ✓ STEAM Title (ex. I Am A(n) Biologist, Civil Engineer, Nurse, etc.).
 - ✓ STEAM Discipline (ex. Agriculture/Natural Resources, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Computer/Info Sciences/Support Tech, Engineering, Arts, Health Profession, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Other - please explain).
 - ✓ Describe your Connection to the MOV (Mid-Ohio Valley) if applicable. Optionally you may include audio of you telling your story, links for students to explore, and or a video of you.
 - ✓ Let us know if you are interested in "Skyping" with a classroom.



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STEAM Stories

Claire Ramsey, EdD

I AM AN INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION RESEARCHER



One of the exciting parts of my career path is **traveling and collaborating with people across countries.**

I love working in rural areas—just about anywhere with more trees than people works for me!

I have explored **North America, South America, Europe, and Africa.**



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One of the exciting parts of my career path is **traveling and collaborating with people across countries**. I love working in rural areas—just about anywhere with more trees than people works for me!

I grew up in West Virginia and as a native-English speaker, **I realized early on that I could get a job just about anywhere in the world** because of it. My career as an educator inspired me to conduct research about how where people are from shapes how they view the world.

As an international education researcher, **I have explored countries in North America, South America, Europe, and Africa**. I am grateful that other organizations are interested in my work and have paid to allow me to continue my research. Even in my home country, my work allows me to connect to students as well as other educators, researchers, and professionals from all over the world.

When I am not researching or teaching, **I love outdoor activities like camping, whitewater rafting, hiking, and snowboarding**. I also have an herb garden and enjoy cooking with what I grow. I often have so many thoughts at once that I carry around a notebook or sticky notes to write some down when they come into my head so I can remember to talk through them later.

Check out a little glimpse of my life below:



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