

STEM + Computer Science x Creativity Team



Principal Investigator (PI). Dr. Ann Robinson is Distinguished Professor at UA Little Rock and founding director of the Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is past president of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), and has been honored by NAGC as Early Scholar, Early Leader, Distinguished Scholar, and for Distinguished Service. In 2021, Ann was presented with the A. Harry Passow International for Leadership Award from the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC). She developed five U.S. Department of Education projects including three STEM research and demonstration programs for elementary students and teachers in low-income schools. An internationally known scholar, she is the lead author on the best-selling *Best Practices in*

Gifted Education: An Evidence-Based Guide and coeditor of *A Century of Contributions to Gifted Education: Illuminating Lives*. Her *Blueprints for Biography* curriculum guides provide teachers with enrichment strategies for using biographies to foster engagement.



Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI). Dr. Jill L. Adelson is President and CEO of Adelson Research & Consulting, LLC, which provides statistical and educational consulting services. She has a doctorate in Educational Psychology with a joint emphasis in Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment as well as Gifted Education from the University of Connecticut and holds a Certificate in Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology. Dr. Adelson brings both content expertise (elementary school gifted/mathematics education background) as well as methodological/statistical expertise. Her background as an elementary school teacher of a self-contained gifted program along with her educational background in mathematics education is important to implementation issues in an effective STEM intervention in the elementary grades.



Curriculum Director (CD). Dr. Christine Deitz is the Associate Director for the Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a nationally recognized educator in gifted, creative, and talented education. During her 26 years of public school service, she was a College Board faculty consultant in social studies. Christine is a two-time National Board Certified Teacher and the coordinator of the National Board Candidate Support Site at UA Little Rock. A recipient of multiple national educator and curriculum awards, Dr. Deitz was recognized as Doctoral Student of the Year and received the A. Harry Passow Classroom Teacher Award from the National Association for Gifted Children. She is the author of articles on gifted education and is the immediate past president of the state's advocacy

association, Arkansasans for Gifted and Talented Education. Dr. Deitz currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Gifted Children as State Representative.



Technical Assistance Director (TAD). Kristy A Kidd spent six years as the STEM Starters+ Director, a Jacob K. Javits research and demonstration project, at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Kristy has 21 years of experience teaching elementary and middle school science. She has also served as a gifted and talented facilitator for the Little Rock Schools, an adjunct professor of early childhood science methods for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and as the k-12 math and science specialist for the eStem Public Charter Schools. Kristy is the recipient of the Milken National Educator Award which honors top educators around the country for their achievements in education.



Engineering Education Consultant (EEC). Dr. Christine Cunningham is a leading expert on science and engineering education. She received her doctorate in Science Education from Cornell and is currently a professor of education and engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. In 2017, she was awarded the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education which recognizes individuals who have made innovative and significant contributions to changes in P-12 Education.





Online Instructional Consultant. Dr. Monica Meadows works as a Gifted and Talented Facilitator for the Pulaski County Special School District in Little Rock, AR. Monica has experience teaching various high school preAP and AP Science courses, and gifted and talented classes at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Monica works closely with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Summer Laureate University for Youth program and Advanced Placement Summer Institutes. Monica holds a Masters degree in Gifted and Talented Education and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision with an emphasis in Gifted and Talented Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Research Assistant. Keila Moreno Mugabo, originally from Mexico City, has been working at the Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education since 2015, managing research data for STEM Starters+, STEM+C2, and assisting in various gifted programs. Prior to this, she taught English in elementary schools in Mexico. She holds a bachelor's degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Universidad Cuauhtémoc Aguascalientes and a master's degree in Gifted Education from UA Little Rock. The 2016 recipient of the NAGC Master's and Specialist Award has presented in various conferences, including AGATE, NAGC, and the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. She is currently a doctoral candidate who aspires to help improve gifted services by improving the identification of and services for high-ability Hispanic and immigrant students in the U.S.



Research Assistant. Merve Topak-Jamsran is a doctoral candidate at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, pursuing a degree in Educational Administration and Supervision concentrating on Gifted, Talented, and Creative Education. She completed her master's degree in Gifted, Talented, and Creative Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and earned her bachelor's degree in Classroom Teaching from Gazi University, Turkey. She is currently a research assistant at Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education. Her research interests include creativity, teacher creativity, underrepresented populations in gifted education services, and STEM teaching.

