



STEM INSPIRATION

Esther Sjostrom
Chemistry Teacher
Ball Preparatory T-STEM Academy
Galveston Independent School District

Pursuing your dream begins here.

Who inspired you?

"The greatest influences in our lives include new opportunities accompanied by the enthusiasm of the people involved in these experiences. As a child, I vividly remember touring NASA Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. We examined the inside of a wind tunnel (diameter was twice my height) and heard descriptions of how it was used in experimentation. A few years later, Mount St. Helen erupted. The photos were quite impressive, but atmospheric analysis that was completed in the Great Lakes Region created a curiosity for scientific cause and effect. During my first teaching experience, I witnessed weak students become academic leaders when provided with opportunities such as: studying solutions through water quality analysis labs on boat/laboratories in Matagorda Bay; writing percent and probability problems using data collected in seine nets and relating the mathematical analysis to the limits established for fisherman each year; and analysis of non-point pollution through opportunities provided by Lower Colorado River Authority. These early experiences working with students in a diverse community of learners instilled in me the importance of the components of a STEM program."

Education

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Mathematics, University of North Texas; Research at UNT in ion chromatography and spectroscopy (Dr. James Tartar).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District
www.swg.usace.army.mil

