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Practicum in STEM Leadership
Make-Up Class: Live Session 1/15/20

This class mainly focused on the expectations and assignments that we will be doing in the class. The end of the class included some discussion about what the components of 21st Century learning are. While everyone has different ideas, the 4Cs are often referred to in some way, shape, or form. The 4Cs are: collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. Discussion also included challenges and successes that we experience in our schools in regards to incorporating STEM.

Question 1: Where are you?

- I'm in New Jersey.

Question 2: Did you read the syllabus?

- Yes. I've been thinking a lot about what direction I will take with planning a PD session for teachers at my school. No, firm idea yet, but I'm having fun thinking about the options.

Question 3: What 3 elements make-up a 21st Century classroom?

- I think that 21st century classrooms are process oriented, integrated subjects, and involve the kids in collaboration.

Question 4: What is the biggest obstacle to the implementation of comprehensive, integrated STEM activities in my school?

- Time is the biggest obstacle at our school. We have a lot of technology available to us, but we don't have the time to tinker with the tools that we have in order to know them and be able to implement it with our students. Also, our school only has one class per grade. It is a lot for one teacher to do all of the research, planning, gathering of materials, etc. that goes into creating a cohesive, integrated STEM unit.

Question 5: Who took my arts class?

- I did not take your arts class.

Question 6: Who has a solution they'd like to share?

- The leadership team at our school started encouraging us to try one new thing a week. Admittedly, that was a high bar to set and stressful on multiple levels. Nevertheless, our school wouldn't be where we are today with incorporating STEM into our school without that mindset. It was very clear that we were not expected to succeed in everything that we tried. Rather, the goal was to take chances and try something different/new. That really helped me to get over my perfectionist drive. I can't say that I continue to try something new each week, but I am not afraid of trying things that are totally new to me and my students. In fact, this new approach has given me several opportunities to model for my students the meaning of "fail forward"

My one question is in regard to the NASA resource that I need to include in my presentation. What if I really haven't used any of the NASA resources in order to be able to recommend them?