

PRESS RELEASE

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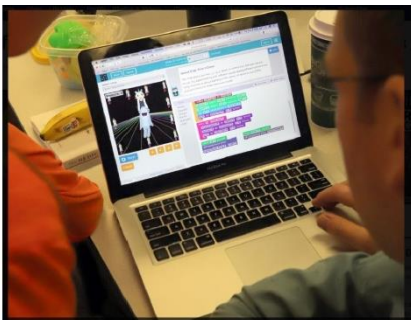
MiSTEM Regional Director Retreat – Ludington, MI

Ludington, Michigan - The MiSTEM (Michigan Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Network Directors met for their bi-annual retreat on December 3rd and 4th at the West Shore Educational Service District building in Ludington. The MiSTEM Network was created to support STEM education by building on existing STEM networks to produce a robust statewide STEM culture, empowers STEM teachers, integrates business and education into the MiSTEM network, and ensure high quality and equitable distribution of STEM experiences for all learners.

“In the first year of our existence, the MiSTEM Network Retreats allow us to come together and take a moment to celebrate and share our successes. The Network Directors and Staff come from a huge variety of backgrounds, and we all have tools and expertise to share with each other,” said Greater West Michigan Regional Director, Kristofer Pachla. “For two days, we were able to learn from each other, co-create our path forward, and explore the state and federal STEM priorities to set our strategic directions.”



As a part of the meeting, the Directors toured the Consumers Energy and DTE Energy Ludington Pumped Storage Plant which is currently undergoing an \$800 million overhaul/upgrade.



Student from Foster Elementary fifth-grade spent the second day teaching the MiSTEM Directors code. Partnering with each adult, the fifth-grade students created a dance through the use of Code.org’s Dance Party. After collaborating together, the students and MiSTEM Directors learned basic coding skills and performed the dances for the entire group.

Along with the 16 MiSTEM Directors the meeting was also attended by representatives from the Michigan Department of Education.

About the MiSTEM Network

Michigan, together with business, education, and community partners, is embarking on a journey to create a MiSTEM Network throughout the state. This opportunity grew out of Governor Snyder's MiSTEM Advisory Council recommendation to make Michigan a world leader in STEM education. The Council report lists four pillars as necessary components to establish a system that will produce STEM-equipped students and educators. These pillars are: create a STEM culture, empower STEM teachers, integrate business and education, and ensure high quality STEM experiences. The work of the MiSTEM Network is to build on existing STEM networks to create a STEM ecosystem that supports and implements the components outlined in the four pillars. For more information, visit the [MiSTEM Network](#).