

# Area educators hear STEM presentation

By Ruth Campbell [rcampbell@oaoa.com](mailto:rcampbell@oaoa.com) | Posted: Thursday, January 17, 2019 6:08 pm

District leaders from around the Permian Basin heard a presentation from Vice President of Global STEM Initiatives for Discovery Education Cindy Moss Thursday about ways they can integrate science, technology, engineering and math into all the content areas.

Ector County ISD Chief Innovation Officer Jason Osborne said about 50 people from around the Region 18 Education Service Center area attended the STEM Leader Forum at the Complex Community Federal Credit Union training room.

Moss supports school districts in their work to develop and use student initiatives to drive science, technology, engineering and math achievement nationwide. She has more than 21 years of experience in district leadership, 10 years in classroom instruction and inquiry based learning to her work as a champion for STEM engagement and career and workforce readiness, information from the forum said.

Moss talked about careers that some in attendance may not have known about that are STEM related such as bioinformatics. The Encyclopedia Britannica website said bioinformatics is “a hybrid science that links biological data with techniques for information storage, distribution, and analysis to support multiple areas of scientific research, including biomedicine.”

The forum was a way to stimulate more STEM education in ECISD and a possible way to partner with other districts, Osborne said.

“Discovery is a great outlet for that and they have great programs. It’s really interesting how they add this literacy component that ties into science which ties into everything cross-curricular,” Osborne said.

“What this platform will do, it will make integrating STEM into what they’re currently doing to give them ideas on how to implement STEM practices. We have some teachers and administrators that really understand that process, but then there are some that struggle on how to relay that to the content they need to teach. This is yet another platform that we could implement to better assist with STEM education and understanding STEM processes,” Osborne added.

Some Discovery components are free online, but if you get into the integrated platform there is a cost.

Hays STEAM Academy Principal Julie Marshall said she thinks the district is moving toward more people knowing about STEM.



## Cindy Moss STEM event

Cindy Moss, vice president of global STEM initiatives for Discovery Education, speaks to educators at a STEM Leader Forum Thursday at Complex Community Federal Credit Union.

“... A lot of it is the training for our teachers to change the mindset of how they’re teaching, as well,” Marshall said.

STEM can be used across content areas from reading and writing to social studies and problem solving. AVID District Director Amy Anderson said what she had heard so far of the presentation was exciting.

“It’s something that we know and we’re working in ECISD to bring to fruition, so we have a lot of small parts everywhere. We’re working to get all of those aligned with effective effort and purposeful intentionality toward a specific outcome,” Anderson said.

She said there are two science, technology, engineering, art and math campuses and STEM is on many prekindergarten through 12th grade campuses, but as far as having a structure where it’s flowing prek through 12th, it’s not in place yet.

“It’s about having those structures and intentionalities to where it’s not pockets of it all over the district. It’s more aligned and purposeful in the intent of it,” Anderson said.

She noted that there are a lot of opportunities for STEM education in ECISD such as PICK Education and through the AVID program.