



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Continues Recognition of Women in STEAM

Knoxville, Tennessee—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is observing Women’s History Month throughout March by sharing videos each Wednesday highlighting time spent in different Knox County Schools’ Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) classrooms taught by female teachers.

Today’s [video](#) features a visit with South Doyle High School STEM/Computer Science and 2022 KCS Secondary Teacher of the Year Katie DeVinney who was teaching a class on the principles of advanced manufacturing and practical design.

“I hope out of courses like this, that young women are able to see the opportunities available in sectors of the economy like advanced manufacturing and hopefully pursue those.” said Mayor Jacobs.

DeVinney is a 10-year educator who began her career as a foreign language instructor but was inspired by her husband who started the Robotics program at South Doyle High School, to switch paths.

“I just love it. It’s so much fun to see the excitement in kids when they get to take something that they designed on this computer and then hold it in the real world. It’s the coolest process I have ever seen so that’s kind of why I do it.” said DeVinney.

Mayor Jacobs said celebrating women in STEAM is important for young girls because it shows them that women can succeed in technical fields—industry typically driven by men.

The Mayor has already shared his [visit with Hardin Valley Elementary](#) STEM Educators Jessica Everitt and Jana Yra and his [visit with West Valley Middle](#) science teacher Bethany Saunders.

Later this month, he will share visits with Gibbs Middle School Art Teacher Dorothy Verbick and STEM Teacher Lauren Downs; as well as Karns Middle School Math Teacher Rebecca Layton.

Background: Women’s History Month became a national celebration when congress requested President Ronald Reagan to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as Women’s History Week. Petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress designated the month of March 1987 as Women’s History Month. In 1995, it became an annual recognition.

STEM classes aim to equip students with the skills and knowledge to compete in a global economy across science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines. STEAM classes do the same while also emphasizing soft skills and the arts including humanities, language arts, dance, drama, music, visual art, design, new media, and more. Research shows the number of roles requiring STEM expertise is growing at a rate that exceeds current workforce. Additionally, a 2019 LinkedIn report found that skills like creativity, persuasion, and collaboration are some of the most important to companies seeking prospective employees.

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