

TALKING PAPER FOR AIAA  
AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

To grow the field of engineering and inspire innovation within our community, the student chapter of AIAA at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is improving on a previously made educational workbook to share as an online resource with elementary schools. This program empowers young students through exciting, hands-on activities that introduce foundational engineering skills and ignite a passion for future careers in science and technology.

Tasks taken to complete this online workbook include:

- 1) Organized workshops with University of Tennessee students to brainstorm and test ideas.
  - a) UTK-AIAA chapter members created innovative ideas to combine problem solving skills with fun activities.
- 2) Collaborated with other university resources and advisors to tailor lessons to the needs of educators and students.
  - a) To create a more beneficial resource, university advisors were consulted to better refine and implement the activities within the local school system.
- 3) Coordinated events with local organizations to reach students more effectively.
  - a) Students interacted with teachers and elementary school students to provide a positive and fun learning experience at local outreach events.
- 4) Grew the initiative with other student organizations, such as the Society of Women Engineers, to encourage more University involvement with local K-12 students.
- 5) Created service hour opportunities through the *Clay and Debbie Jones Center for Leadership*, allowing students to earn service hours to complete other societal / honors requirements.
- 6) Improved and compiled activities into a cohesive online resource to allow lessons to be more readily available to students who are not only local, but on a national scale.

Final Thoughts:

Through this enriching experience, our chapter members made meaningful impacts towards inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. An initiative that started as volunteering at local outreach events within our community has grown to a national scale through the creation of an online resource. By equipping local schools with resources to incorporate STEM activities into their lessons, we are empowering educators and inspiring a new generation of young innovators.

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