

Our Centers

Central GYSTC

Mercer University

Chattahoochee-Flint GYSTC

Georgia Southwestern State University

Etowah GYSTC

Georgia Highlands College

Gordon GYSTC

Gordon State College

Magnolia Midlands GYSTC

East Georgia State College

Oconee River GYSTC

Northeast Georgia RESA

Southwest GYSTC

ABAC at Bainbridge

West GYSTC

University of West Georgia

GYSTC @ Augusta

Georgia Cancer Center – Augusta
University

GYSTC @ Gainesville

Lanier Technical College

GYSTC@ South Georgia

ABAC at Tifton

GYSTC State Office

Kennesaw State University

Note from the Director's Desk



Enjoy your Summer, Georgia Educators

As another year comes to an end, we want to thank you for all you have done for Georgia's students, and we also want to thank you for allowing us to be a partner with you. Teachers always inspire us to reach for the stars, so for our final newsletter of this school year, GYSTC has included a Simple STEM Activity to do with your students to celebrate Astronomy Day. You will find a summary and link for the activity below. On **Astronomy Day, Saturday, May 7, 2022**, join GYSTC as we demonstrate this month's Simple STEM Activity on the [GYSTC Facebook Page](#). GYSTC will be available throughout the summer and our monthly newsletter will resume in July.



GYSTC Gems

Our May "Gem" comes from McGarity Elementary School, which is in Paulding County. Throughout this school year, McGarity Elementary had their second graders plan, design, and build a pollinator garden. On April 22, Earth Day, they unveiled their newly created garden. They have had numerous community partners support their garden, including the help of West GYSTC. West GYSTC had the honor of sharing our Bee A Pollinator and Life Cycles lessons with their students throughout the year. GYSTC congratulates the McGarity Elementary second graders on all their hard work.



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May Simple STEM Activity



In honor of **Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 7, 2022**, this month's Simple STEM Activity will showcase how to utilize everyday materials to explore examples of when light is refracted. The activity is entitled **Tubular Telescope**.

In this activity, your task is to construct a working telescope to view faraway objects, like stars. Telescopes are tools used by astronomers to see faraway objects. The first telescopes used pieces of curved, clear glass called lenses (refracting telescopes), but most telescopes today use mirrors (reflecting telescopes). Telescopes use these lenses or mirrors to gather the light better than our eyes can do on their own.

In a refracting telescope, the objective lens gathers and bends the light, then the eyepiece focuses and magnifies the light, enlarging the image for our eyes. The size of the image produced by the telescope depends on the curvature of the lenses. Lenses with different curvatures will change the magnification of the telescope, so thicker lenses make more powerful telescopes.

The link for the activity can be found [here](#). Don't forget to join us on **Saturday, May 7, 2022**, as we demonstrate this month's Simple STEM Activity on the [GYSTC Facebook Page](#).

GYSTC Spotlight

This month, we are shining a light on our **Regional Coordinators and State Staff**. We would not be the organization we are today without the true dedication that it takes from our Regional Coordinators and the program staff at the State Office. Each of our coordinators comes from various educational backgrounds, but one thing that remains consistent is their love for teaching and helping inspire our next generation.

We want to thank **LaTrina Howell** of Central GYSTC; **Emily Anne Strickland** of Chattahoochee-Flint GYSTC; **Robert Young** of Etowah GYSTC; **Valarie Ages-Lockett** of Gordon GYSTC; **Erin Youmans** of Magnolia Midlands GYSTC; **Will Dodd** of Oconee River GYSTC; **Tammy Nowell** of Southwest GYSTC; **Cathy Fontenot** of West GYSTC; and **Jenna Henkel, Lynn Larsen, and Pam Parks** of the GYSTC State Office.

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 is National Teacher Appreciation Day. We applaud all of our Georgia Educators and are excited to share this [lesson](#) with your students so that they see what it is like to be a STEM teacher just like our coordinators!



Upcoming State Office Events



Summer Programs

Summer STEM Institute:

- June 7 - June 8, 2022 - Mercer University - Macon Campus - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - (Cost per teacher is \$99 for a member system and \$199 for a non-member system.)

STEM Discovery Camp:

GYSTC's STEM Discovery Camp is an exciting four-day learning experience for bright-forward thinking elementary school (grades 3-5) students.

- Monday, June 13, 2022 - Thursday, June 16, 2022 - Kennesaw State University - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 - (Registration is limited to the first 30 students)