

# 2020 Edgerton Impact Facts

- 2020 has been difficult, every business and individual in our community has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Edgerton Explorit Center is no exception and has been hard hit by this situation, but we have made the most of it. During the school closures, our educators offered free online programs called “Let’s Explore It”, which reached thousands of students and teachers when they needed it most with free educational opportunities.



**Renovated Theater**



**Staff renovating hallway**

- Staff also used this time to do some much-needed building renovations, again all done with grant funds. Walls were given a fresh coat of paint, new flooring added to entryway and theater, updated bathrooms with new partitions, paint and counter resurfacing. We even added in some science in the bathrooms with temperature indicating color changing faucets. Funding for the building renovations and cafeteria tables provided by the B.K. and Norma Heuermann Foundation.

- During this time, our staff revised, revamped and developed some new demonstrations for our “Full STEAM Ahead” educational programming. The programming is based on the philosophy of our namesake, Harold “Doc” Edgerton. The Center is carrying on “Doc’s” legacy by advancing student knowledge in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) subjects. We are changing our future by creating amazing experiences that encourage discovery through play, asking questions,

exploration and using creativity to solve problems. Amazing experiences turn into unforgettable learning experiences that can inspire and motivate children to learn and explore more on their own. One of the greatest benefits of our programming is that it fosters a love of learning in students of all ages!

- The update we are most excited about are the changes made to the lower level. These updates enabled us to add a second Explorit Zone currently hosting a traveling exhibit called, “Sun, Earth, Universe”, which will be in the space until May 2021. This added 1,000 square feet of unused space to become a hand-on exhibits area that can be utilized by thousands. The other portion of the lower level which is used as a cafeteria space has new tables and a fresh new look as well.

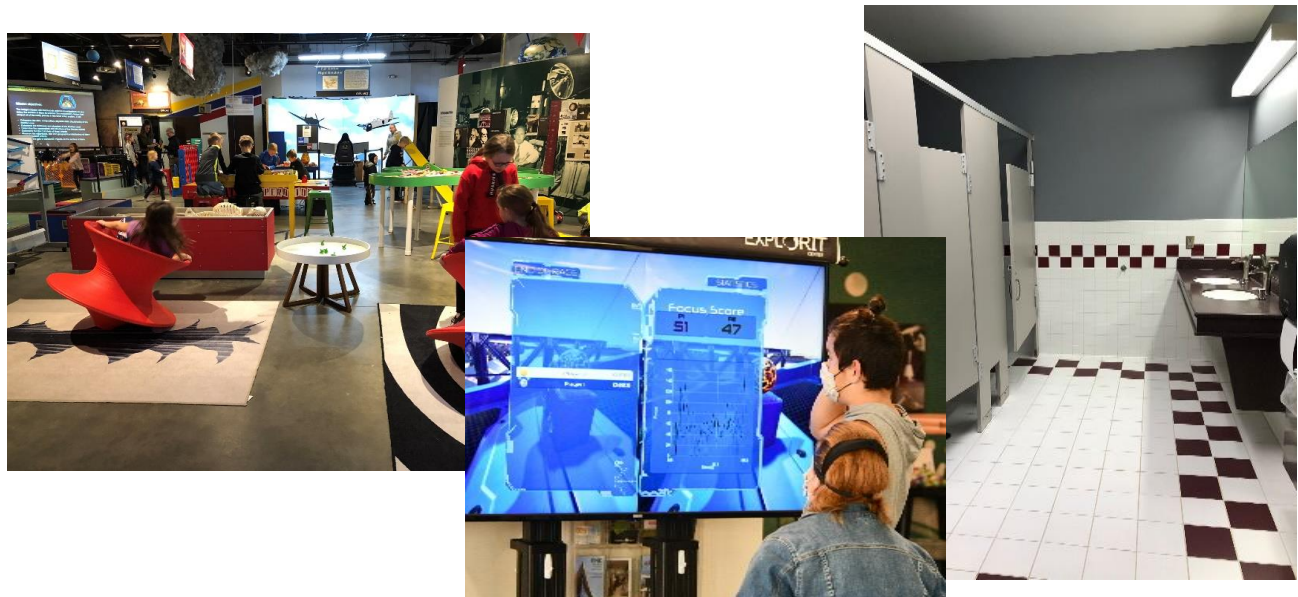


**Lower Level Sun Earth Universe Exhibit**

- We added over 20 new exhibits, all done with grant funds, which range from a state-of-the-art climbing wall to an exhibit that explores lights and lasers.
- The center has never looked better or had more to offer the people in our community.



## New Rock Climbing Physics Exhibit (including Tiny Tykes Climbing Area and snowboard physics simulator\*)



## Updated Explorit Zone featuring 20 new exciting exhibits

\*Rock Climbing Physics Wall funded by the Kolar Trust and NEST 529

\*Tiny Tykes Climbing Area funded by the Aurora Fitness Center



## Where will your funds go?

They will fund operations that reach and touch students, both locally and across the state. The Edgerton Center reaches over 200,000 students each year and personally impacts hundreds of students, whose interest in science becomes an interest in a lifelong career in the STEAM field. Here are some stories of our impact on students, our community and State impact.

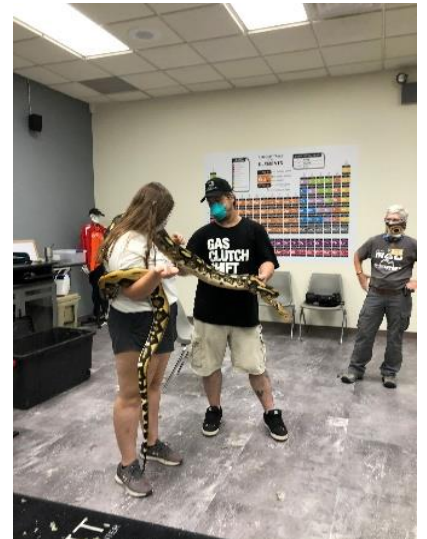
### Student Impact

- **Journey Noyes**

#### **Aurora High School Senior**

#### **Career goal – Become an OB/GYN**

One of these students is, Journey Noyes, whose goal is to fulfill her lifelong ambition to become a doctor. Journey has been coming to the Edgerton Center since she was in preschool. Her interest in becoming a doctor intensified when she participated in the Young Doctors and Nurses camp and continued to grow and flourish with all her Edgerton experiences. Journey is now a senior in high school with straight “A’s” who is applying to colleges. Her college applications include her experiences working for and volunteering with the Edgerton Explorit Center, experiences, which are impressive to say the least. She has helped teach after-school students, coordinated and instructed her very own Edgerton summer camps, and works at our front desk helping visitors explore all of our hands-on exhibits. A very impressive resume that will help her achieve her dream. Journey’s ultimate goal is to return to this area as a doctor to help the people in our community. Journey has this to say about her experiences, “Overall, I believe that The Edgerton has made me much more of a hard worker and has



taught me so many things that I don't believe I could have learned anywhere else. When I first joined, I was a very shy and awkward girl, and now I love talking to and helping others! I am preparing to become an OB/GYN, so working in a place where the main goal is to teach science in a creative way, I am able to continue my passions for science outside of school. I truly believe that I would not be the same person, had I not had the experiences I did at the Edgerton!”

- **Dawson Stolpe**  
**Aurora High School Sophomore**  
**Career Goal: Pediatric Medicine**



Dawson Stolpe, who is a high school sophomore, has some of the same passions as Journey and has this to say about the center, “The Edgerton Explorit Center has provided a place where I could just be me, relax and just have fun with people who had the same passion as me. It has boosted my self-confidence and made me realize who I am. It has also shown me many different things and made me realize that I wanted to go into the pediatric medical field. It showed me that I enjoy science and like to work with little kids.”



- **Sydney Dyer**  
**Aurora High School Senior**  
**Career goal: Study Biology with an emphasis in Natural Resources**

Sydney Dyer, an Aurora High School Senior, has this to say, “I have been involved with the Edgerton Center for about 7 years. At summer camps, I have learned how to handle leadership positions when helping and teaching camps. The people that work there are incredible people and without them, I would not have known how



amazing working in a science field is. Edgerton Center is such an amazing place, just over 7 years I have gathered many good life skills along with helping me discover that I want to study Biology with an emphasis in Natural Resources at Fort Hayes State University. Without someplace like this our community would be so different, and our kids wouldn't have that opportunity to explore with all the amazing hands-on activities we have and learn all the things we have to offer.”



- **Adam Hahn**

**Senior at UNO**

**Career Goal: Software Startup**

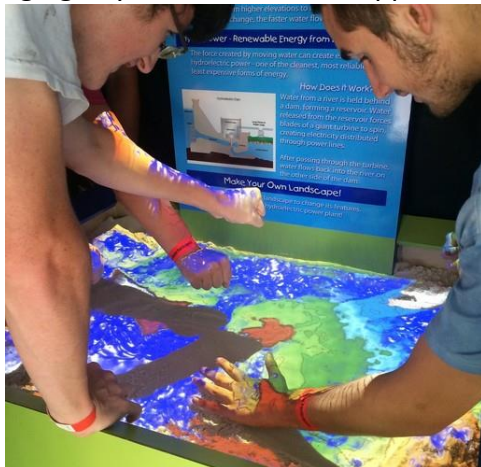
Adam Hahn, a UNO senior majoring in IT Innovation, states, “I am a senior at UNO. I have had the privilege of working at the [UNO IS&T Attic](#), where I have found phenomenal guidance and opportunities. Last year I co-authored a research paper on ophthalmology biometrics with the UNMC Truhlsen Eye Institute.

This year, I collaborated with acclaimed artist Watie White to release an Augmented Reality app for his 100 People Project. I successfully applied for a [UNO FUSE grant](#) to self-fund the project. Recently, I managed and released a second mobile game I managed over the summer for the former Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the CDC. The game educates students about basic epidemiology and sanitation. UMNC and 4H hope to integrate the game in their K12 curriculums.

My major is IT Innovation, which is essentially entrepreneurial CS. For our capstone projects, IT Innovation students independently develop the business model, prototype, and pitch for their real world innovation startup. Under the mentor-ship of geriatrician and assistant vice chancellor for UNMC campus wellness, I am developing a virtual reality application to reduce workplace anxiety and mental aging. If you have used the app 'Headspace' to meditate, imagine that experience on a virtual beach.



**Adam instructing camp at the Edgerton Center**



**Augmented Reality Exhibit Adam designed for center when in high school**

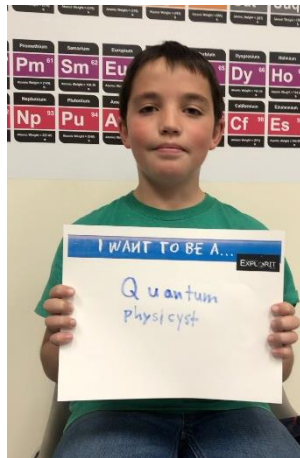
**None of this would have been possible without the opportunities I was given at Edgerton Explorit Center.** When I graduate, I expect to play a competitive role in the software startup world.”



## Our Afterschool Club Students have big career ambitions



Zoey



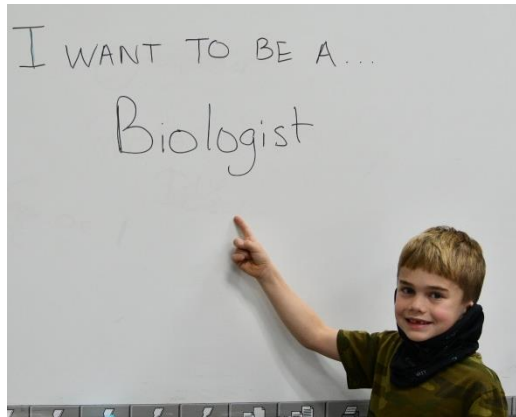
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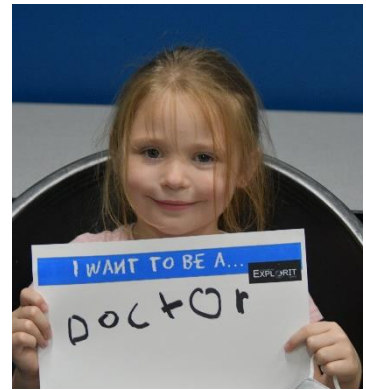
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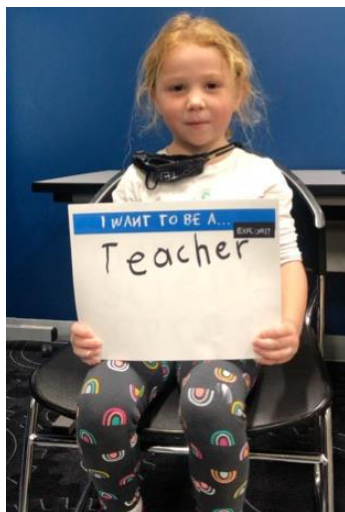
Avery



Owen



Destiny



Harper



Shawn



Londyn

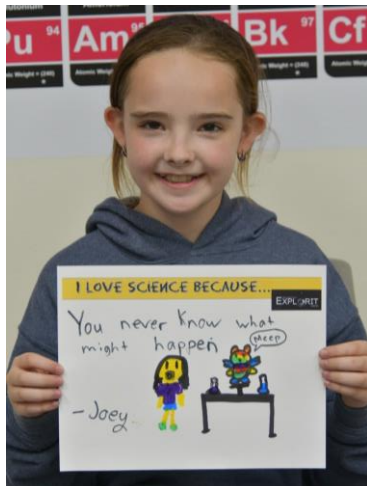
# Community Impact

While the Edgerton Center's programming reaches across the state of Nebraska it is extremely important to us that the local schools see the benefit of our impact.

- **Mark Standage, Aurora Elementary Principal** has this to say about the Edgerton Explorit Center's programming, "The Edgerton Explorit Center is a tremendous partner and resource for our school district and the community of Aurora! The staff at the Edgerton are very knowledgeable and help support our curriculum by providing unique hands-on opportunities for our kids that they might not otherwise be able to experience. We are extremely fortunate to have this exceptional asset right here in Aurora!"



**Butterfly Tagging Lab  
Aurora 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders**



**Joey - 5<sup>th</sup> Grader in our afterschool program**

- Local teachers are also very grateful for the Center's programming. **Aurora Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Barb Hanson**, states, "The Edgerton Explorit Center is the perfect resource for hands on exploration! Our 3rd graders learn so much about the environment and science practices that just are not possible to experience in the classroom. Whether they bring programs to our classrooms, take us outside, or we visit Edgerton the kids quickly get excited! We are lucky to have such a great place so close to home!"



**Slime Lab**



**New Owl Pellet Dissecting Lab**



## Impact across Nebraska

Our programming includes field trips to the center and our Edgerton On The Move Programming which travels across the state. The impact of our program can be seen statewide with schools from across the state coming to Aurora for field trips and our educators travel across the state with our on the move programming which includes our traveling Explorit Zone, live demonstrations and hands-on labs. Here are some quotes from some of those we have served with our programming.

- **Sue Eigsti**

**Friend Public School 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher**

Once again I am writing to express my sincere thanks for the WONDERFUL job you do when we come to Edgerton. I have been teaching for many years, and there is no place like the Explorit Center to take kids. You are truly fulfilling Doc's mission by creating an environment and activities that foster so much learning in the middle of a bunch of fun. So...thank you, thank you, thank you!!!



**New Flashlight Lab**

- **Faith**

**Woodland Park Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grader**

"I really liked the balloon filled with hydrogen and copper sulfate. I also like everything in the Explorit Zone. The Arctic Blast and Sparks demonstration using the Van DeGraaf generator that the mad scientist did were amazing. Thank you, all Edgerton staff, that was the best field trip I ever had. You are all AWESOME!"



**Arctic Blast Demonstration**

- **Zoey**

**St Peters Elementary 4th Grader**

"Thank you for the shocking, icy and the astronomically awesome time at the Edgerton Explorit Center. I loved everything you had in the Zone especially the microscope and skeleton puzzle. Thank you for BLOWING my mind!"

- **Aaliah**

**Barr Middle School Student**

"Thank you for making my field trip wonderful! My favorite part was...everything!"