

Education Research Center Awarded Continuation Grant to Evaluate Stephen F. Austin State University STEM Academy Project

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The Texas A&M University Education Research Center (ERC) is pleased to announce that it recently received a continuation contract to conduct the Year 3 evaluation of the Stephen F. Austin (SFA) State University STEM Academy Program. Jackie Stillisano and Hersh Waxman will be the principal investigators for the study. Additional ERC researchers involved include Kim Wright and Kayla Rollins.

Designed as a partnership among SFA State University, Nacogdoches Independent School District, and Lufkin Independent School District, the SFA STEM Academy Program seeks to provide a seamless matriculation into undergraduate STEM majors for participants, through a cohort model that involves students in research experiences with STEM faculty at SFA State University. The Academy Program engages academically capable high school students in real-world applications of science and mathematics through hands-on research experiences and support from academy master teachers and SFA faculty.

“This external evaluation will provide information regarding the implementation of this innovative STEM school-within-a-school concept, as well as feedback for incremental change and improvement,” said Stillisano. “The study will help determine the extent to which the SFA STEM Academy is effective in achieving its Year 3 goals, objectives, and outcomes and will provide valuable information about a model of STEM education in Texas high schools that has potential to be transferable, replicable, and scalable.”

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