



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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LINDSEY RESET ALUMNI

I am in my 9th year of teaching and I currently teach 6th, 7th, and 8th grade STEM classes in Erie, PA.

WORDS OF ADVICE

RESET offers teachers time to collaborate with fellow teachers, learn from practicing engineers, and design rigorous and challenging interdisciplinary lessons for your students. It is an enriching and hands-on learning experience that will provide numerous benefits. It gives you an opportunity to learn how best to incorporate engineering topics and ideas into your classroom.

Learning from engineers was such a unique experience that I would not have had without being enrolled in the RESET program.

BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

It was a multi-dimensional learning experience that allowed me to learn from fellow teachers as well as practicing engineers in the field.

As a part of RESET, I was enrolled in an online cohort of fellow STEM teachers. I was one of six teachers that was sent to an Army Post and worked with engineers in the field. I went to Fort Rucker in Alabama for four weeks over the summer working in the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory. While they do various research in that lab, I worked primarily on helmet design research for the army. I worked with a biomedical and a medical engineer who study designs of helmets, weight limits, and functionalities that are safe for soldiers to wear for extended periods of time. It was able to learn how these engineers collaborate together, problem solve, and communicate with other specialists.

AS A RESULT OF THE PROGRAM

I am more suited to think like an engineer, which was not a natural way of thinking for me. Engineers are extremely detail oriented and pay very close attention to even the minor details in their work. Their problem solving skills are so much more in-depth than what I expected or experienced myself. I have now modeled this type of problem-solving for my students and have begun to implement such opportunities for my students to engage in similar rigorous problem solving experiences.

HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

Upon returning home from Fort Rucker, I was paired up with two other RESET teachers (one a physics teacher and one a biology teacher). We were asked to come up with a lesson plan idea that relates to my experience at Fort Rucker. We designed a 7th, 8th, or 9th grade lesson on concussions. This concussion lesson allows for an interdisciplinary learning experience by allowing students to research, design, build, and test a helmet to prevent concussions; The lesson provides connections to force and motion for the physics teacher, connections to the human anatomy of the brain and spine for the biology teacher, and connections to engineering and mathematics to follow the Legacy Cycle.