# Getting Technology in the Hands of Teens

Rebecca Pratte

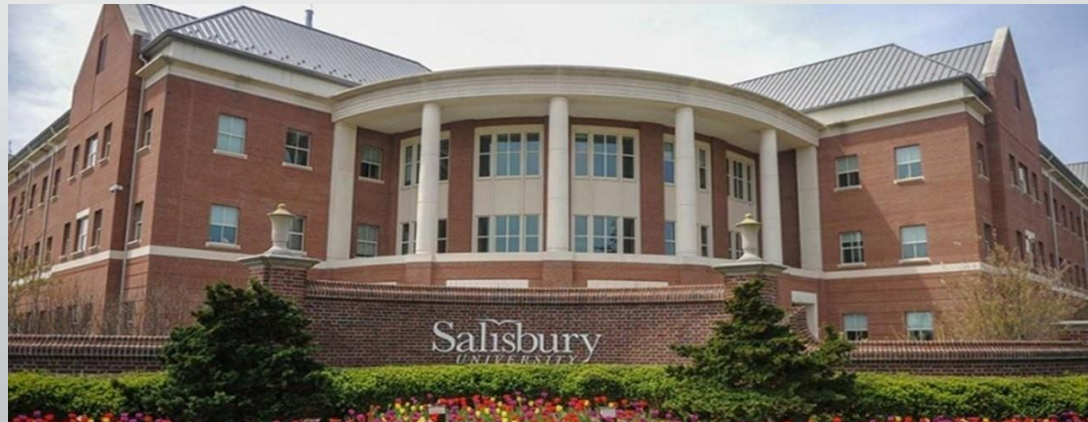Youth Services Coordinator

Somerset County Library

# Overview of Session

Do you ever wish you had more hands-on, engaging activities for the t(w)eens in your building that requires little to no supervision from the staff? T(w)eens at the library can often be overlooked because of their independence and bias that some staff may have for kids in that age range. Participants in this session will learn how they can create STEM kits that can be used as passive programs in their building with little management or direction. Keep your t(w)een population up to date on the latest technology with some engaging, self-directed, and fun manipulatives they will want to use!

# Who I Am

- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Biology from Salisbury University in 2009

- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2018

- 9 years teaching at the elementary school level for Somerset County Public Schools

- 2 years as the Youth Services Coordinator for Somerset County Public Library
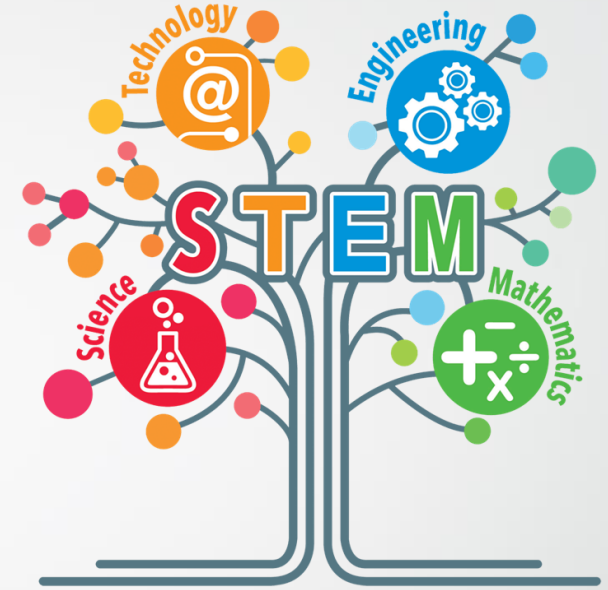
# Who I Am

- Wife of 10 years and a mother to 2 daughters
  - Bella – 7
  - Evie – 14 months

- Huge horror movie buff
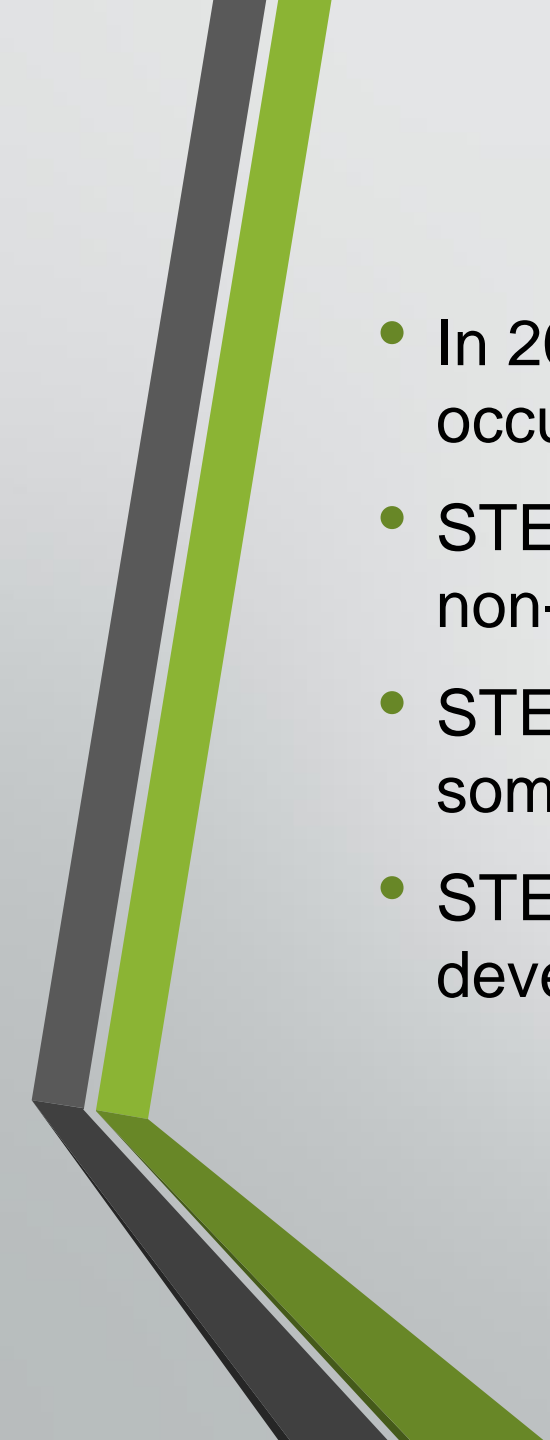
- Favorite holiday is Halloween

- STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Sometimes called STEAM when adding the arts

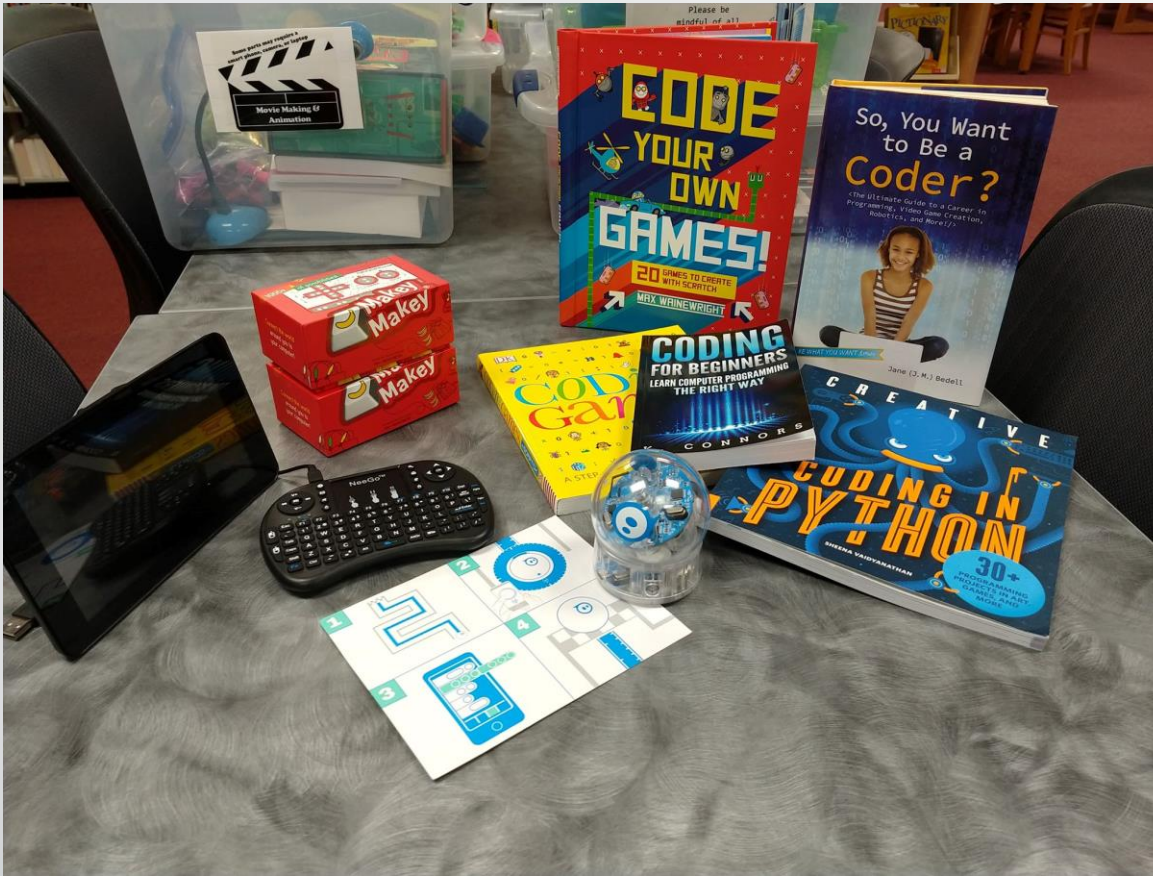# We most likely have heard this over and over again. So, why is it so important?

- In 2016 STEM related occupations are growing at 17%, while other occupations are growing at 9.8%

- STEM related careers have higher income earning potential than non-STEM careers

- STEM education helps to bridge the ethnic and gender gaps sometimes found in math and science fields

- STEM pervades every part of our lives from roads and bridges to developing tools to take on the challenge of helping our very planet

# What I'm Doing in Somerset County



STEM kits for Teen Area

A big 'Thank You' to our friends at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore!

# Coding Kit

- Raspberry Pi

- Makey Makey

- Spero

- Coding books

# **Robotics Kit**

- Cozmo robot
- Lego Mindstorms
- Robotics books

# My friend, Sammy!

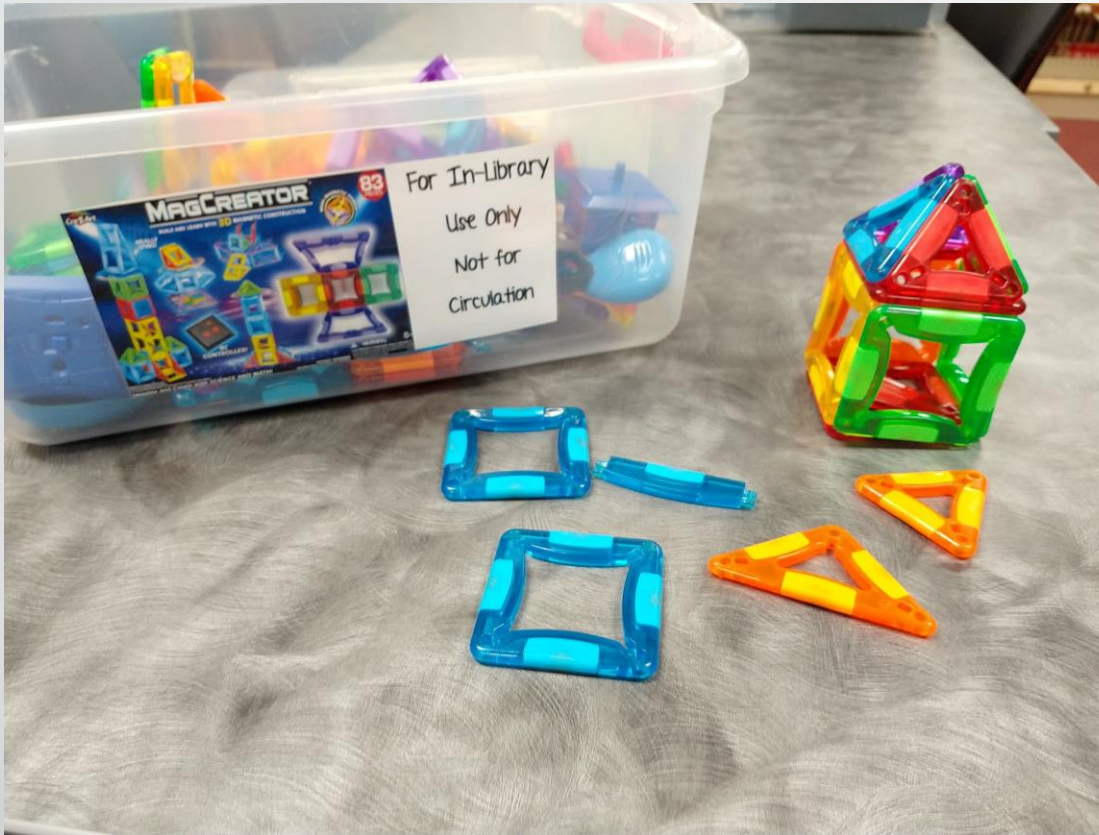# Building/Engineering  Kit

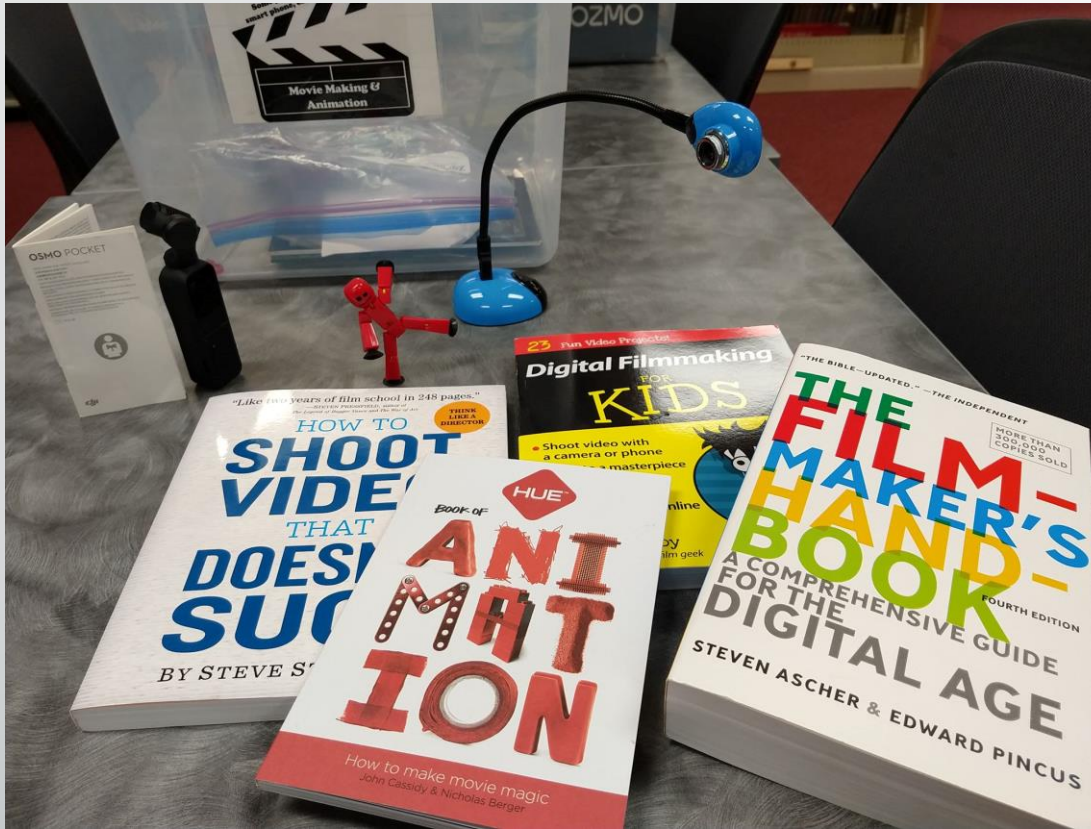- K'NEX Thrill Rides kit

# Building/Engineering  Kit

- LEGO Architecture Las Vegas
- Building/Engineering books

# Building/Engineering  Kit

- MagCreator (magnetic shapes)

# Film Making Kit



- Osmo Pocket Handheld
- Smartphone Movie Maker
- Stikbots
- HUE Animation Studio

# Building/Engeneering Kit

- Maze of Marbles (interchangeable marble maze pieces)

# Science Kit

- Snap Circuits

# Grants

- Almost all of these kits were funded with grant money from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

- $2,000 total grant

- Kits ranged from $300 - $800 to make

# PROS | CONS

**PROS**

- Freedom for staff
- Allows for creativity
- Fosters Love for science

**CONS**

- Money
- Broken and lost materials
- Can get messy

# TIME TO PLAY!

# Any Questions?