

Proclamation
School Board of Sarasota County, Florida
Affirmation of Continuing Support for STEMsmart Initiative

WHEREAS, the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics are identified collectively by the acronym STEM; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida, and Gulf Coast Community Foundation in 2010 entered into a five-year partnership to develop the STEMsmart initiative to increase student interest in STEM academic courses and careers, to transform the teaching and the technology in those classes, and ultimately to improve student achievement in STEM; and

WHEREAS, the STEMsmart initiative has transformed instruction in the STEM subjects by creating technology-rich learning environments such as TechActive Classrooms of Tomorrow, Technology Enhanced Learning Studios and other STEMsmart classrooms and STEM Academies; and

WHEREAS, the STEMsmart initiative has provided the extensive professional development required for teachers to use advanced technology to its fullest instructional advantage; and

WHEREAS, the documented success of students in the STEMsmart program has encouraged the district to expand the instructional approach developed in STEM classes to other areas of the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the STEMsmart collaboration has further enhanced the exceptional partnership between the District and Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, community awareness of the value of STEM instruction to student success and workforce development has increased dramatically over the past five years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida, proclaims its commitment to sustaining and enhancing the STEMsmart initiative by providing appropriate financial, logistical, instructional, environmental and administrative support for STEM classes and activities for as long as such classes and activities continue to enhance academic achievement and to prepare students for future success in STEM-related careers.

Proclaimed and approved this **Third day of March, 2015**, by the undersigned members of the School Board of Sarasota County of Sarasota County, Florida.

Frank Kovach, Chairman

Jane Goodwin, Member

Shirley Brown, Vice Chair

Caroline Zucker, Member

Bridget Ziegler, Member