Academic Lead: Carter Tiernan; BOA Leads: TBD

What is the goal?

The main goal of any outreach program is to continually develop new relationships with community partners that will have a viable impact towards ongoing engagement with the college. Each semester, including the annual summer camp programs, the college seeks out new partnerships that will avail long-lasting relationships.

Why does this matter?

From a recruitment and pipeline perspective, we need to have a well-developed talent pool of future engineering students that desire to major in engineering. Thus, each camp or outreach event, provides a venue to partner with local school districts or tribal nations to sustain ongoing interest for the next generation of engineering students. Moreover, each summer camp that is offered by the college promotes a positive image to the community, while also strengthening the ongoing relationships with various school districts to recruit future students, ISD teachers to serve as camp leaders, or the community at large.

What is the status?

A new opportunity to engage a unique population of future engineering students occurred on July 9, 2019. Dr. Carter Tiernan, and two college of engineering ambassadors, attended the second day of a week long summer camp program entitled FemSTEM. A presentation was given to the students as well as multiple interactions with camp participants throughout the day.

The FemSTEM camp was held by the coaches and team members of a FIRST Lego League team in Ada, Oklahoma called the Warrior Cats. This team collaborated with the Chickasaw Nation STEM Academy for this event. The camp was designed for girls 6th – 9th grade, with a special emphasis on girls from the Chickasaw Nation, including thirty-six girls registered for the camp. The camp’s main theme was for participants to design and build a robot and to complete a challenge by the end of the week. The camp also included other STEM activities including presentations from various women mentors including Dr. Kendra Wallis from UTA. Dr. Wallis first made The College of Engineering aware of the program this spring as she is good friends with one of the coaches of the Warrior Cats, First Lego League team.

What will you accomplish by when?

Each of the UTA summer camps have concluded with commendable success. Additionally, Drs. Carter Tiernan and Kendra Wallis plan to investigate future opportunities for ongoing
interactions with the Chickasaw Nation for future planned events related to STEM Academy participation.

The dates for Engineering Saturday’s are scheduled for October 12, 2019 and April 18, 2020. Dr. Carter Tiernan will be responsible for the organization of the event as well as the coordination of all on-site activities. This program provides a free outreach program for kids of all ages (K-12) to increase interest in engineering with family friendly activities. Additionally, the Saturday event promotes faculty and student organization involvement at UT Arlington. The success of the Engineering Saturday event will be measured by the number of visitors that sign up to participate as well as the number of UTA student groups that assist in the campus event.

**What are your points of discussion with the board?**

In order to continue offering these unique K-12 outreach programs at UTA, two camps in particular **Entry** and **Girlgineering**, need monetary commitments from outside sources or board member support for future involvement. Entry and Girlgineering experienced a decline in participation this year. Thus, a budget evaluation will be needed to consider the ongoing viability of each camp. The Director of Outreach and Summer Camps are working with our UTA development officers to secure ongoing financial support and commitments. If financial support for each camp is unable to be obtained in the near future, a decision may be determined regarding the continuance of these programs that have maintained a long standing history with the College of Engineering. The summer camp director is actively seeking involvement from board or community members with ongoing outreach efforts either through presentations, activity suggestions, and networking for sponsorships or donations leads. Dr. Kallie can be contacted at rosie.kallie@uta.edu. Additionally, if other outreach efforts are able to be identified, the college would be interested in exploring venues that are viable to consider.