

STEM Initiative Director

The mission of the STEM Initiative Director is to support any STEM project that the Board approves. These may be initiated by the Branch or may be in collaboration with other organizations or universities. The supporting activities may include the following:

- To publicize the project(s) in the community and among members within the Branch.
- To raise necessary funds to support the project(s), if the Board approved budget is not sufficient.
- To organize a committee to carry out the fundraising activities.

Due to the large sum of funds required to be listed as a participating organization of Digital Divas, the Branch began raising additional money besides the budgeted amount in 2015. The annual Mah-Jongg Tournament was born. The STEM Initiative Director, in collaboration with Co-Chairs and members of the Mah-Jongg Interest Group, organized the tournament at the Ann Arbor City Club. The fundraising project required publicity, recruitment of participants, decision on the registration fee, solicitation of donations in the community and among members, solicitation of gift items for the silent auction, assignment of tables at the tournament, door prizes, and prizes for the top three winners. In the first four tournaments, a silent auction was available for the tournament participants only. At the 5th tournament, the STEM Initiative Director organized a silent auction on a separate day to be available to the public. EMU Foundation donated many door prizes and has recruited silent auction participants. Local businesses have also donated gift items. The planning usually begins in July, and the tournament has been on the third Thursday afternoon in October. Participants were from Adrian, Ann Arbor, Dexter, Saline, Tecumseh, and Ypsilanti.

Historical STEM Projects:

Brains Rule: The Branch provided \$500 to support the Brains Rule day, sponsored by the Neuroscience Graduate Program at the University of Michigan, and provided Branch members to be volunteer chaperones to middle school students learning about the brain and neural science.

Let's Read Math: The Branch, in collaboration with the Ann Arbor District Library, presented math games to children at a library branch on one winter afternoon.

Digital Divas: Since 2015, the Branch has supported Digital Divas, a biannual one-day event on the campus of Eastern Michigan University to encourage middle school students to consider STEM in their future careers. The Branch provides \$2,000, partially from the Branch budget and partially from fundraisers, in exchange for acknowledgment of the Branch, along with other supporters including ATT and DTE, in EMU's promotional material.