



## COVID Education Innovation in Florida

### Virtual STEAM Expo (Miami-Dade County)

The South Florida Regional Science Fair competition has been a mainstay for this area for more than 67 years with elementary, middle and high school students designing, conducting and presenting their research in a competitive academic environment. Maintaining a semblance of normalcy for students and still offering them a chance to participate in meaningful extra-curricular activities was important to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Science Fairs are important events to showcase students' acumen in the scientific research methods on a subject of their choosing, and for many students, a dedicated focus of their academic schedule. With more than 25,000 participants annually, the District could not disappoint these students or have them lose momentum, so with collaboration throughout the entire county, the event was moved to a virtual setting and included Visual and Performing Arts and academic competitions in science math, and engineering.

Overall student participation this year included more than 1,200 elementary, 1,100 middle and 800 high school students on a dedicated STEAM Expo webpage that had more than 5,000 views. The Expo's reimagining reinforced the idea that competitions can continue with a little redesign and cooperation.

One administrator summed up the district's efforts this way, *"I want to thank you and your team for the countless hours put in to make sure students had these STEAM events this year. I know it meant a lot to our Seniors - some of them have been doing SECME with PPMH for the past 7 years. I look forward to a time when we are all squished together watching the award ceremonies under the science building again. Until then, we will use the link and watch with great appreciation for what your team has done for our community. Many thanks!"*

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The Consortium elevates the impact of Florida's local education foundations through advocacy and providing a collegial community for ongoing learning, shared resources and support. These nonprofit organizations are aligned with nearly every school district in our state and collectively they raise more than \$80 million annually to innovate learning, power potential and celebrate success.

We believe strong collaboration is essential to ensure school success. Our effort to capture, elevate and share education innovations discovered amid the disruption of the pandemic is offered in that spirit.

Our **Top 10 Takeaways: COVID Education Innovation** report can be accessed at [educationinnovationspotlight.com](http://educationinnovationspotlight.com)