

A. Which type of website will you be constructing (professional/portfolio or educational)?

I plan to construct a professional/portfolio website. I chose this because it is the most practical option for me. I want to begin building my graduate project portfolio for the Learning Technologies Ed.S program. Because this is my first semester in the program, I do not have enough finished work to choose the Learning Technologies Portfolio subtype so I intend to use projects from previous work experiences to build a Non-Academic Portfolio for now, with the intention of changing it over to match program competencies once I have a few more artifacts finished.

B. Home Page Content

Welcome to my website! I'm Erin Weaver, a science enthusiast and student studying Learning Technologies and Design at the University of Missouri. I hope by exploring my website you will learn a little more about who I am and the kind of work I'm passionate about!

This site contains information about my educational and career background. You will also find examples of projects I've had the opportunity to complete, and detailed descriptions of the process I went through to create them. In addition, you will find reflections on what I've learned from each project, and how the experience will impact my future work. Feel free to use my contact page to reach out to me if you have any questions. I'd love to hear from you!

C. About/Educator Credentials Page Content



Hello! I'm Erin Weaver, a student at the University of Missouri pursuing an Ed.S degree in Learning Technologies and Design. I'm passionate about creating engaging learning experiences in STEM. I've worked as a substitute teacher in Joplin, Missouri for the last 3 months. Before moving to Missouri, I worked at a community college in Oklahoma developing STEM programs for under-served high schools. It was an incredible opportunity to grow! Before that, I worked as a 7-12th grade science teacher in Arkansas. I got to teach everything from astronomy to biology. This job made me eager to build my own creative science content! I hold a M.S. degree in Psychology from Pittsburg State University. I also hold a Masters in Biology from Missouri State University. I hope to earn my Ed.S degree from Mizzou by 2022, and start a full time career in learning technology!

"There are a whole lot of things in this world of ours you haven't started wondering about yet."
Roald Dahl

Resume PDF: [Weaverresume.pdf](#)

Video Resume: <https://vimeo.com/525718310>

D. Projects/Experience

#1 “City Lab” Program Development

Description: City Lab is an educational job program created to teach Tulsa Public Schools students to identify real-world problems, propose solutions, and present ideas within a design thinking framework. City Lab provides opportunities for students to build leadership skills, engage creatively, and develop STEM practices in order to better prepare them for the challenges of college, career, and young adult life.

The Program Proposal and Virtual Facilitation guide linked below were written by myself and a co-worker. The program proposal demonstrates our project management strategy for developing the City Lab program from scratch. It includes our program goals and competencies, a theoretical framework and rationale for our program decisions, and program design details. In addition, the proposal includes a logic model, as well as scaling and management plans. The Virtual Facilitation Guide was created as a guide for adult leaders participating in our first two week Summer 2020 program. It includes a detailed schedule, curriculum, and activity guides. Both the program proposal and virtual facilitation guide were created using Google G Suite tools, primarily Docs and Sheets.

Artifacts:

- [City Lab Program Proposal \(with Appendix A\).pdf](#)
- [City Lab S2020 Virtual Facilitation Guide](#)

Reflection: Participation in the creation of the City Lab program taught me an incredible amount about project management. It was amazing to see a program go from an idea to a full blown successful project that will continue to help serve students in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area for years to come! This project was full of challenges including shifting our program design from in-person to virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic, technology barriers, and mid-program schedule rewrites because of student progress. If I were to take part in the next installation of City Lab, I would do several things differently based on what we learned along the way. I would ensure that the schedule listed in the Facilitation Guide allowed for more flexibility and student input, place more emphasis on pre-session data collection protocol, and work on developing a recruitment plan that would ensure a more diverse group of students representative of the Tulsa area.

#2 “The Building Blocks of Life” Course

Description: “The Building Blocks of Life” course found below in PDF form was developed to teach high school students about the role DNA plays in genetics. I made it independently of a class or work simply to test out course building software, and gain some experience using Articulate 360 through a free trial. Though unfinished, it currently includes five completed modules. The modules include a variety of written content, interactives, videos and short quizzes. The course was created using Articulate Rise. The video linked below is an example of a video I created to supplement material not in the written content. The video was made using Canva.

Artifacts:

- Articulate Rise Course PDF: (Unfinished)
[the-building-blocks-of-life-P3BIW0ZT.pdf](#)
- [Incredible DNA.mp4](#)

Reflection: Throughout the process of creating this course I discovered a need for a better organizational and storyboarding strategy. Because it was my first experience using Articulate Rise I was excited to get started and jumped into building my course without a storyboard or plan to follow. I created several versions of the content that I ended up deleting, and this cost me a lot of time. This ultimately resulted in my free trial ending without completion of the project. Though the project was just for fun, it was still a disappointing result after all the work I put in. In the future, I plan to take more time on the front end to develop my ideas before jumping into the fun of course creation. I fully intend to complete building this course at some point and hope to implement better time management and planning strategies based on what I've learned.

#3 Digital Media Projects for Teaching

Description: I loved to use new forms of media while I was teaching 7-12th grade science. The infographic linked below was created to serve as a guide for my students, that quickly and succinctly summarized the engineering design process. This is a concept I used extremely often in classes, but I could not find an infographic or poster that had the wording I wanted. The infographic was created using Canva. It provides a quick description of the engineering design process with the wording I wanted to present to my students. I also created an mp4 version that could easily be incorporated into a presentation to add some movement. The third artifact below is a PDF of a variety of scientific illustrations that I've created. I was frustrated by the lack of cute drawings of scientific concepts and creatures available through creative commons licensing, so I decided to create some of my own for use in future science course building. These illustrations were created, drawn, and edited using the SketchBook app for iPad and a drawing stylus.

Artifacts:

- [Engineering Design Process Infographic.pdf](#)
- [Engineering Design Process.mp4](#)
- [Scientific Illustrations.pdf](#)

Reflection: The artifacts above represent time spent being creative and expressing science in a way that I enjoy. While the process of creating them was fun, I have a lot to learn when it comes to designing and developing digital media projects. The technical proficiency of the projects could be improved greatly through more practice and time spent using these tools. Through working on these projects I've learned that I need to invest additional effort into learning to use digital media tools, and in basic art/drawing techniques if I want to be truly satisfied with my finished products. I hope to continue to build these skills throughout my course of study at Mizzou.

E. Reflection

My educational and career experiences have included many valuable projects, and coursework that have fueled my pursuit of a career in learning technologies. After receiving my Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences from the University of Central Arkansas, I moved to Pittsburg, Kansas to pursue a Masters in Psychology from Pittsburg State University. I was privileged to have the opportunity to work as a Graduate Assistant during my time there. I worked in the Center for Research, Evaluation, and Awareness for Dyslexia assessing clients for reading difficulties, compiling psychological reports, and implementing reading interventions and tutoring. My course work at Pitt State focused on the psychology of learning from a biological and behavioral perspective. My classes, combined with my work at the Center for READING, changed my view of education drastically. I was exposed to how the educational experience differs greatly for students from different backgrounds. I became extremely interested in neurodiversity and the role of biology in informing differing learning experiences.

After finishing my M.S. in Psychology, I decided to take my newfound interest in the biological basis of learning and run with it. I've always loved science, so this was a natural step for me. I was lucky to receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship at Missouri State University, and enrolled in classes to pursue a Masters of Natural and Applied Science with an emphasis in Biology shortly after. My course work at Missouri State was challenging and reminded me just how passionate I could be about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Perhaps my most impactful experience while pursuing this degree was my role as a teaching assistant. For the first time, I was responsible for delivering Biology content in the role of "teacher." I had the opportunity to be the teacher of record for introductory laboratory classes for college students. This experience shifted my interest from the merely academic side of learning, to the practical. I now had teaching experience and wanted more.

When I graduated from Missouri State in 2016, I entered into a full-time science teaching position at a public charter school in Northwest Arkansas. I had no idea of the challenges that lay ahead, but I was excited to be a formal educator. I taught and developed curriculum for a wide variety of 7th-12th grade science classes. These included, Biology, AP Environmental Science, Physical Science, 7th Grade Science, 8th Grade Science, Aquaculture, Animal Science, Introductory Coding, Tools for Learning, and even Astronomy! I learned more STEM content in my years teaching than I had in any higher educational setting! This job was also an incredible opportunity for me to grow as a person, experience the joy of working with young adults, and get a peek at K-12 education from the inside. I loved teaching in the classroom, but I knew that I wanted to experience other aspects of the world of education.

In 2019, I took a position in Tulsa, Oklahoma as STEM program coordinator working for a grant with Tulsa Community College. I spent my time coordinating and implementing STEM programs targeted at under-resourced high school student populations. A colleague and I worked together to develop a program plan for an initiative with Tulsa Public Schools called City Lab. We also had the opportunity to virtually implement our program for several cohorts of students throughout the spring and summer of 2020! The role of informal educator and project

planner was completely new for me, but I am so grateful for the lessons I learned from my co-workers on project management, community engagement, and the importance of equitable education experiences.

In December of 2020, I had an exciting life change- I got married. Due to my husband's job, this meant leaving my role in Tulsa and relocating to Joplin, Missouri. The move was an opportunity for me to reassess my career so far and look to the future. The common threads tying together all the best memories of my educational and career experience are two things a) a passion for STEM education and b) a desire to create educational content that reaches diverse students. Because of these two things I decided to further my career by enrolling in an Educational Specialist program in Learning Technologies and Design at the University of Missouri. I hope that this degree will help me to gain the skills I need to create exciting, engaging, and worthwhile STEM learning experiences for students. I've got a long way to go, but I hope to find a full time position as an e-learning developer, learning architect, or instructional designer!