

21 March 2020

INVITATION TO TEACHERS AND THEIR STUDENTS: PARTICIPATE IN THE COVID-19 ENGINEERING CHALLENGE!

The University of Texas at Tyler University Academies is a system of K-12 Charter Schools located on 3 separate campuses in East Texas (USA), in the cities of Tyler, Longview and Palestine. They are participating in the [Covid-19 Engineering Challenge](#) and invite you to join them. Teachers in 22 Countries + 1 U.S. territory have expressed interest in participating in the Challenge (Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, France, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa, UK, and the United States, plus the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico).



I created the Challenge for the students in our STEM lab schools to engage in while their teachers were busy placing their materials online with the hope that it would provide the teachers with a breather while at the same time provide their students with an outlet to share their creative ideas during this difficult time. It is thrilling that this simple activity might also provide students, located in so many countries experiencing the same thing we are going through, with something positive to think about when much of what they are listening to on the news and in their homes is so depressing, and often times down right sad. As teachers, we have the best job in the world—we work with the next generation of problem-solving citizens!!!! It will be exciting to see what these students come up with as their engineering solutions to any problem they may have identified that is related to this pandemic, or for that matter, any solutions they come up with in response to any of the multitude of challenges we are faced with daily.

Teacher instructions as well as a sample student handout translated in the six United Nations (UN) languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) plus Japanese, Portuguese and Turkish have been posted to the teacher project information and reporting page. After teachers have completed the project with their students, I ask that they please respond to the question prompts on the project information reporting page and send copies of any student projects they would like to share with others to [my email address \(tkennedy@uttyler.edu\)](mailto:tkennedy@uttyler.edu).

A summary of world-wide participation, including descriptions of the student creations produced as a result, will be provided to all that respond on the reporting page. A certificate of participation will also be provided.

The challenge will close on 29 May 2020. You can find the information here: https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eXLiS0zOZ2pAnb

Thank you for your participation and for your collaboration!

Sincerely,

[Dr. Teresa Kennedy](#)

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