

STEAM Expo

More than 50 WesternU students, faculty and staff participated the inaugural ***STEAM Expo*** at Fairplex, attended by 40,000 registered students. The successor to the long-running experiential Ross/McCracken Learning Expo, this free event -- conducted Friday, March 15 & Saturday, March 16 -- was designed to engage students from grades K-12 to explore and pursue learning and careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Agriculture and Math. Attractions included Bill Nye "The Science Guy" on the main stage, two secondary stages and about two dozen exhibitors. For more details, visit the website: www.fairplex.com/steam-fair.

WesternU's College of Graduate Nursing, the College of Health Sciences - Physical Therapy Program, the Provost's Office-Strategic Alliances Program and the Information Technology Department brought together a team to provide southern California students with first-hand experience in the Virtual Reality Virtual Surgical Suite and the Augmented Reality Digital Skeleton. Physical Therapy and College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific students guided attendees in drawing ligaments with 3D pens on WesternU-branded elbow models that 1,000 attending students were then able to take home after completing. Students from the College of Graduate Nursing provided hands-on training in CPR, hand-washing and wound care.

Physical Therapy Assistant Professor Steven Snyder, Marsha Guillaume (Community Coordinator CGN), Helen Musharbash (Manager of Educational Partnerships and Organizational Outreach- Provost's Office), and Director of 3D Technology Sunami Chun led teams creating the content and leading the experience, with participation by Educational 3D Visualization Specialist Gary Wisser, Educational Application Developer Garret Reuscher, Manager of Pipeline Programs - Provost's Office Maria Moreno and Associate Vice Provost and COMP Professor of Anatomy Elizabeth Rega.

WesternU will continue to participate in this event yearly. Faculty, staff and students wishing to be a part of next year's effort should contact Helen Musharbash (hmusharbash@westernu.edu) for further coordination.