

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM AT@I ALUMNI

## Sachse High School

Teacher: Erik Bushland  
AT@I Alumni 2010 & 2012

My students are recreating Sachse, TX in Virtual Reality so that fire and police can learn to navigate around town without placing extra wear and tear on vehicles and reduce fuel costs. Once the driving aspect is complete, the students will move on to adding the utilities and establishing disaster scenarios. These scenarios may include: Train derailments with varying cargo, wind and weather conditions, traffic accidents, flash flooding, tornados, ice storms, gas line leaks and/or explosions, etc. All of this is being done in Virtual Reality and in conjunction with the city and the fire department.

See more:

- <https://cw33.com/2018/01/18/garland-isd-students-create-virtual-reality-training-for-firefighters/>
- <https://dallasinnovates.com/garland-isd-students-using-vr-to-aid-first-responder-training/>
- <http://www.aldiadallas.com/2018/01/24/metroplex-estudiantes-de-sachse-desarrollan-software-de-realidad-virtual-para-el-cuerpo-de-bomberos/>

## Great Mills High School

Teacher: Nora Blasko  
AT@I Alumni 2011

I teach three different computer science classes at my high school, beginning with a foundations course and two Advanced Placement courses. I had the good fortune of working with a team of teachers to develop a curriculum for the newest AP class, AP Computer Science Principles. I believe that my experience, both at AT@I and coaching a team of students at the convention, provided first hand knowledge and deeper understanding of models and simulations. This background knowledge was one of the strengths that I brought to the team.

Even since working on the CS curriculum, I enjoy telling my students about the many simulations I was able to try and the importance of developing this technology. It is very exciting at the end of a school year when the students have the knowledge to design and create their own models and simulations!

## Billings Senior High Freshman Academy

Teacher: Craig Beals  
AT@I Alumni 2008 & 2014

I was fortunate to participate in America's Teachers at I/ITSEC two times. The second time I attended I brought an administrator with me. During our time on the showroom floor, I was drawn to a small booth that had an Augmented Reality Sandbox. After much visiting with the program creator, he explained to me that the software and blueprints were available for anyone to use - free of charge!

I spent the next two years thinking about how this amazing tool could be implemented in my classroom and after much searching, found a grant to fund the project. I made a video tutorial to show others how to build an AR Sandbox. I am continually inundated with emails from schools and science organizations that want to build an AR Sandbox so I help them through the process.

These are the resources I've created to help others make an AR Sandbox to use with their students - and it all started with America's Teachers at I/ITSEC!

<https://www.bealsscience.com/single-post/2017/06/07/Augmented-Reality-Sandbox-will-Blow-Your-Mind>

## **DeSmet Public School**

Teacher: David Feeley

AT@I Alumni 2008 & 2014

My participation in America's Teachers at IITSEC has made me realize how much the STEM field has changed and how quickly it continues to evolve. During my visits to IITSEC I learned how valuable modeling and simulation is to education. With all of the advances in technology, it is easy to see that many of our students will be involved in STEM fields in the future.

I was a major player in the STEM development and curriculum in our school. I feel that students need to design, plan, build, and improve. We have implemented Engineering is Elementary curriculum from the Museum of Science in Boston, Mass. From K-8 in our school. We are always looking for ways to enhance the learning of our students and feel that STEM teaching can do that.

The learning and friendship of fellow America's Teachers has been the most valuable asset I've taken away from IITSEC. Being part of the original group chosen back in 2008 I feel I've gained lifelong friends and colleagues that I still stay in contact with ten years afterwards. I enjoy checking in with them to see what types of adventures they are on throughout their continuing teaching careers. I often contact some of the America's Teachers to find out ways to teach Science in differently in my classroom. America's Teachers at IITSEC has created a network of peer mentoring with some of the greatest STEM teachers across the United States.