A Note from Leadership

2020 was certainly a transitional year for ETHOS Innovation Center. As with everyone and every organization, we felt a significant impact on our operation as a result of the worldwide pandemic. However, we have pivoted, partnered, scrapped, and strategized to become an evolving organization ever present to meet our mission of helping children and adults engage with science and technology through hands-on programs. We do this today by offering and partnering with organizations that offer opportunities to connect science to everyday life through problem-solving, discovery, and critical thinking. We have forged ahead with our STEM Activation Plan to help classroom teachers and their students exceed benchmarks set by national standardized tests. Our professional development curriculum empowers teachers with techniques and tools that turn lessons into tangible, exciting concepts that students can touch, see, inquire about, and understand.

This has been a testament to the commitment and compassion of our board and our employees...all both past and present, to the partnering of our school corporations and community education-driven agencies, to our deeply rooted corporate funders and to our staunchly supportive individual donors. All who have shown their belief in our principals and to stay with us and provide us the trusting bandwidth to morph into the evolving innovation center that we are becoming.

Jim Finan      Jared Huss
CEO         Board Chair

2020 Snapshot

2020 started off normal and full of energy and excitement as schools and families filled ETHOS Innovation Center’s Science Museum on field trips and special events.

The Global Coronavirus pandemic swept the country and caused many businesses and schools to close so families could go into quarantine. ETHOS temporarily ceased public-facing operations and discontinued Science Museum Saturdays.

Alongside Elkhart Public Library, ETHOS began a virtual science story hour featuring live, energized readings of STEM-related children’s books. This program, funded in part by TCU Foundation, helped provide an interactive, fun activity accessible in the classroom and at home.

FIRST Robotics FLL Team 31195 - Heroes 230 qualified for the Razorback International Invitational, FLL 237 - GooseBuster MISHines qualified for the Carolina Open, and FLL 24976 BioFi qualified for the North American Open in LEGOLAND in California. Unfortunately, all national events were cancelled due to the pandemic.

ETHOS launched a new website with more accessible features and links to our social media activity, virtual programming, and online registrations for camps and field trips.

ETHOS helps children engage with science and
Alongside Elkhart Public Library, ETHOS began a virtual science story hour featuring live, energetic readings of STEM-related children's books. This program, funded in part by TCU Foundation, helped provide an interactive, fun activity accessible in the classroom and at home through our YouTube channel.

The Board of Directors appointed Jim Finan as the new CEO of ETHOS Innovation Center. He is tasked with building strategic partnerships, developing program excellence, and formulating a regional model for growth.

Startup Moxie of Elkhart County and Elkhart County Chamber of Commerce began to use gathering spaces at ETHOS to safely host small and medium groups for trainings and seminars.

ETHOS partnered once again with Elkhart Education Foundation to host EdCamp, a special e-learning program to meet the educational needs of up to 600 families who were in need of extra support when schools and childcare were closed due to COVID-19.

ETHOS hosted the Elkhart Education Foundation's annual Summerscape summer camps. All campers and counselors adhered to safety guidelines like sanitization, temperature monitoring, and masked use.

ETHOS Programs

Innovation Center
Our public, community space for students, educators, innovators, and entrepreneurs can accommodate data storage, incubators, and startups.

Virtual Learning
From hosting EdCamp on-site to creating Science Stories and Inquiry Zone teacher resources available on YouTube, we’re set for online learning.

Science Kits
Science Kits containing Indiana State Standard curriculum materials and science experiment supplies are distributed to over 35 area schools.

K-12 Teacher Resources
ETHOS staff work with cohorts of K-6 teachers to make them experts in Inquiry-Based Learning that will help students excel in STEM and life.

Science 2 Go Bus
Our mobile science lab contains six lab stations that teach students to recognize science in everyday life during events and field trips.

Robotics
K-12 students in FIRST Robotics programs use problem-solving skills to build custom LEGO robots and participate in regional competitions.

ETHOS helps children engage with science and technology through hands-on programs.
In late fall we launched a STEM Activation Plan to provide Science Kits and STEM Professional Development to all schools in Elkhart County with support from Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

Community Foundation of Elkhart County awarded ETHOS a $170k grant to support STEM activation activities in all schools in Elkhart County, and beyond. The funding supports two positions that provide inquiry-based professional development to K-12 teachers.

ETHOS launched first-ever annual campaign Full STEM Ahead in an effort to increase public, regional support for innovation and STEM education for youth.

Thank You, Donors! :)