

# BI-WEEKLY NEWS

November 22, 2022 ~ December 5, 2022

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## Project SEED

Project SEED (Research on Social Justice, Education Equity and Diversity through the Lens of Taiwan’s National Civic Literacy and Efficacy Initiative) is a multicultural collaborative effort focused on generating knowledge on the development of civic knowledge/skills, attitude toward civic literacy and efficacy in Taiwan for research and development of civic engagement in language, social science and science learning.

### 2022 International Conference of Sustainable STEAM Education

This conference was held on November 23rd at Kaohsiung Medical University. Drs. Wei-Chen Hung and Tom Smith delivered keynote speeches related to STEM learning. Dr. Hung focused on fostering children’s problem solving and computational thinking through integrated STEM robotic curriculum; Dr. Smith focused on intergeneration STEM learning in informal settings. Dr. Laura Johnson presented on promoting youth civic and community engagement; Dr. Reeves shared his research on relationships between teacher education mechanisms and practices, self-efficacy, and job satisfaction in the United States. Dr. Isti Sanga shared insights for designing a “disaster proof” digital learning environment for K-12 school system. In the afternoon, we observed a classroom (KMU affiliated after school child-care center for grades 2-6) for parachute inquiry and practice.



**高雄醫學大學**  
2022 International Conference of Sustainable STEAM EDUCATION at KMU  
永續STEAM教育國際研討會

**11.23**

Venue: Conference Room, International Academic Research Building 1B2, Kaohsiung Medical University

Organizer: Center of Research in Sustainable STEAM Education (CRSSE), KMU

Co-Organizers:
 

- Center for Medical Education and Humanizing Health Professional Education, KMU
- Center for General Education, KMU
- College of Education, Northern Illinois University (NIU)
- Center for Promoting Civic Literacy, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU)

Sponsors:
 

- Northern Illinois University
- SEAM

**Keynote Speakers**

Wei-Chen Hung, Thomas J. Smith

**Invited Speakers**

Laura Ruth Johnson, Todd Reeves, Isti Sanga

## Cultural Tour (National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra)

On November 24th, we attended a concert at NSYSU performed by National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (NTSO). This concert was part of the NTSO 2022-23 Music Season Series Concert featuring classical music by composers such as Strauss II, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky. A notable piece was the Formosan Dance by Bunya Koh, who was a talented but somewhat forgotten musician that was born in Taiwan during Japan's colonial rule.



## School Visit (Field Research-National Chi-Mei Senior High School)

Our fourth field research was on November 25th at National Chi-Mei Senior High School. We interviewed 2 principals, 1 director, 3 teachers, and 1 parent.



## School Visit (Field Research-Kaohsiung City Meinong District Guang-sing Elementary School)

Our fifth field research was in the afternoon of Nov. 25th at Kaohsiung City Meinong District (Hakka) Guang-sing Elementary School. We interviewed 3 principals/directors, 2 teachers, 6 students, and 2 parents.



## Civic Literacy Panel Discussion (NSYSU)

The NIU Civic Literacy Panel Discussion at NSYSU consisted of 2 days (November 28 and December 5). On the first day, Dr. Chun-Yen Tsai shared three of his studies related to the use of educational technology to improve students' scientific literacy; Dr. Hsiao-Lin Tuan shared her research on preservice teachers' perceptions of STEM teaching competencies, with focus on engineering design (EIE model); Dr. Hsiao-Ching She shared her research on how new technology (e.g., eye tracker) can improve students' understanding of scientific concepts and learning.





## Civic Literacy Panel Discussion (NSYSU) cont.

On the second day of the Civic Literacy Conference (December 5), Dr. Sheau-Wen shared her research findings related to a course that she developed, "Science Fabrication and Teaching Practices" to support pre-service elementary STEM teachers' development of pedagogical practices. Dr. Sung-Tao Lee shared his findings on the study of science news using the SPHERE questioning model.



## Teacher Literacy Oriented STEAM Professional Development Workshop (Nantou)

On November 29th, we traveled north to the middle of Taiwan, specifically Nantou County, to attend and participate in discussions at a two day professional development workshop for in-service teachers on literacy-based STEAM education. The workshop was held at National Ren-Ai Agricultural Vocational Senior High School in Wushe of Renai Township in Nantou County. Many Taiwanese tribes with strong sense of community predominately occupied Nantou and surrounding areas before Japan's colonial rule. Present day Renai Township still has some presence of tribal village and large focus on farming.



## Cultural Tour (Indigenous Villages)

In the afternoon of the first day of the workshop, we took a tour at the school's museum to learn about indigenous villages in Taiwan. There is a total of 16 officially recognized tribes throughout Taiwan; each tribe has their own culture, customs, and languages.



## Cultural Tour (Sun Moon Lake)

On December 2nd, we headed southwest (about 55 km) to Sun Moon Lake. On the way there, we stopped by Mona Rudao Memorial Park. Mona Rudao, who was from an indigenous tribe called the Seediq, led the Wushe Incident against the Japanese. After lunch at Sun Moon Lake, we took a boat tour and did some sightseeing. Notably, there was a lot of temples in this area (Yuchi Township). The morning after, we walked along the Hanbi Trail (about 1.5 km), passed by the Yule Pavilion, and lastly, encountered the Apricot Platform (commemorating the spirit of Confucius, with some wall calligraphies of his teachings).

