



# Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning

## STEMercise for K-12 Remote Learning: An Exercise in Resiliency

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### **Rationale:**

The shift from face-to-face to remote instruction and the cancellation of UCF STEM Day 2020 presented a significant challenge for my SPC 1603 Honors students and me. STEM Day – one the Center for Initiatives in STEM Outreach or iSTEM – has been the impetus for our major class project for more than three years.

By mid-March student groups had already completed a majority of presentations. Some groups had already run trials of their demonstrations. Rather than drop the project, my students and I – in collaboration with iSTEM – transformed a challenge into an opportunity. We have reconstructed an outreach project that will thrive in a UCF STEM Virtual Library beyond the pandemic and continue to serve Central Florida's K-12 students, educators, and parents.

### **Description:**

I will begin by defining STEMercise -- a term that I invented -- and discuss the rationale for reconstructing the assignment. Then, I will share the steps my students and I took to create the STEMercise. Finally, I will share how we took this from an experimental assignment in the spring to a collaborative project that will be included in the UCF STEM Virtual Library this fall and into the future.

Here is a link to one of the projects:

<https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1366631/files/82602958/download?wrap=1>

### **Appraisal:**

We have not formally evaluated the effectiveness of the tool; however, I am working with Renee Johnston in iSTEM to assess strengths and shortcomings of the STEMercises and to continue to improve future work.

It is my hope that the STEM Virtual Library will serve as a repository for STEM presentations, projects, and demonstrations and broaden UCF's outreach efforts.