

# iGraduate Project: The Bitterroot After-School Career Academy



Nathalie Wolfram  
Director

# Partners



Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Office of Public Instruction, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, and Montana Department of Labor and Industry

AY21-22 Project Partners:



Hamilton Middle School



Corvallis Middle School



Ravalli County 4H

# Project Goals

Increase eighth-grade students' awareness of and interest in:

- Locally in-demand careers in technical fields
- Relevant post-secondary educational pathways
- CTE and other educational opportunities available locally for high school students

AY20-21



# Welding with Chocolate

## Meet A Local Welder: Laura Newby



"My father used to tell me all of the time, 'you can do anything you want to do in your life, as long as you put your mind to it.'"

Welders use tools to melt pieces of metal together in order to build and fix things. Laura Newby is a welder based in Stevensville, Montana who works on equipment like pipes, tractors, and trailers, and also designs and builds her own metal sculptures.

Learn more from Laura here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4aukw9r>

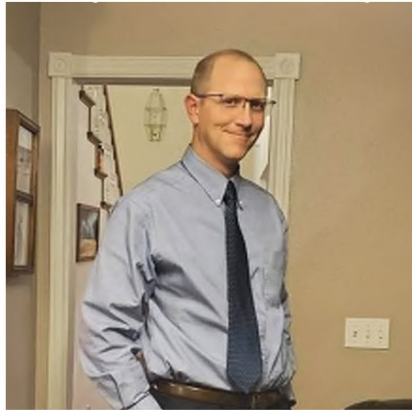


BROADER IMPACTS GROUP



# Engineering a Tensegrity Table

## Meet A Local Engineer: Jeff Standaert



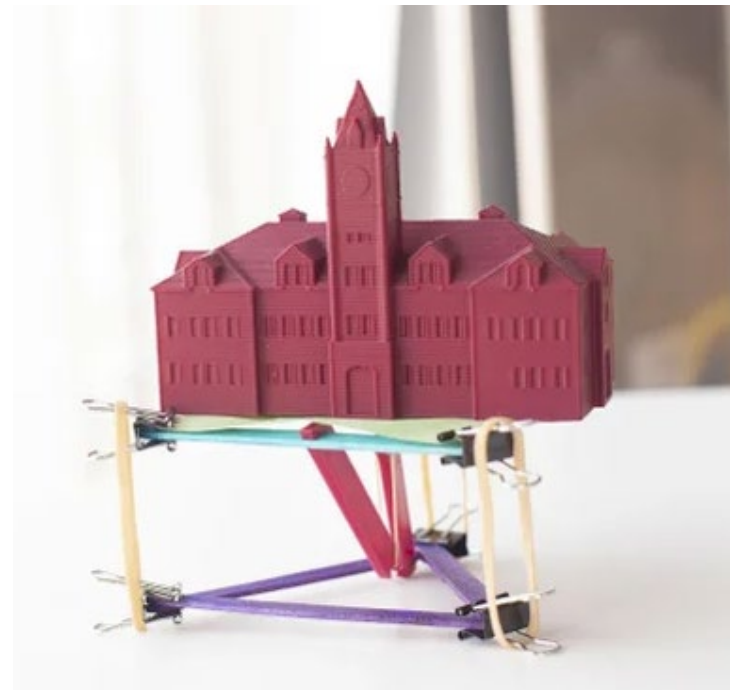
"I chose civil engineering because I was good at math and wanted to learn how things worked. I don't come from an engineering family, so it was a little intimidating. But after applying myself and working hard, I became a Professional Engineer. Over my 13-year career I have gotten to work on so many neat projects."

Engineers design, construct, improve and operate infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and systems for water supply. Jeff Standaert is a civil engineer in Ravalli County, MT.

Learn more from Jeff here:



BROADER IMPACTS GROUP



# Build a Sensor-Activated Night Light

## Meet A Local Electrician: Tyler Cross



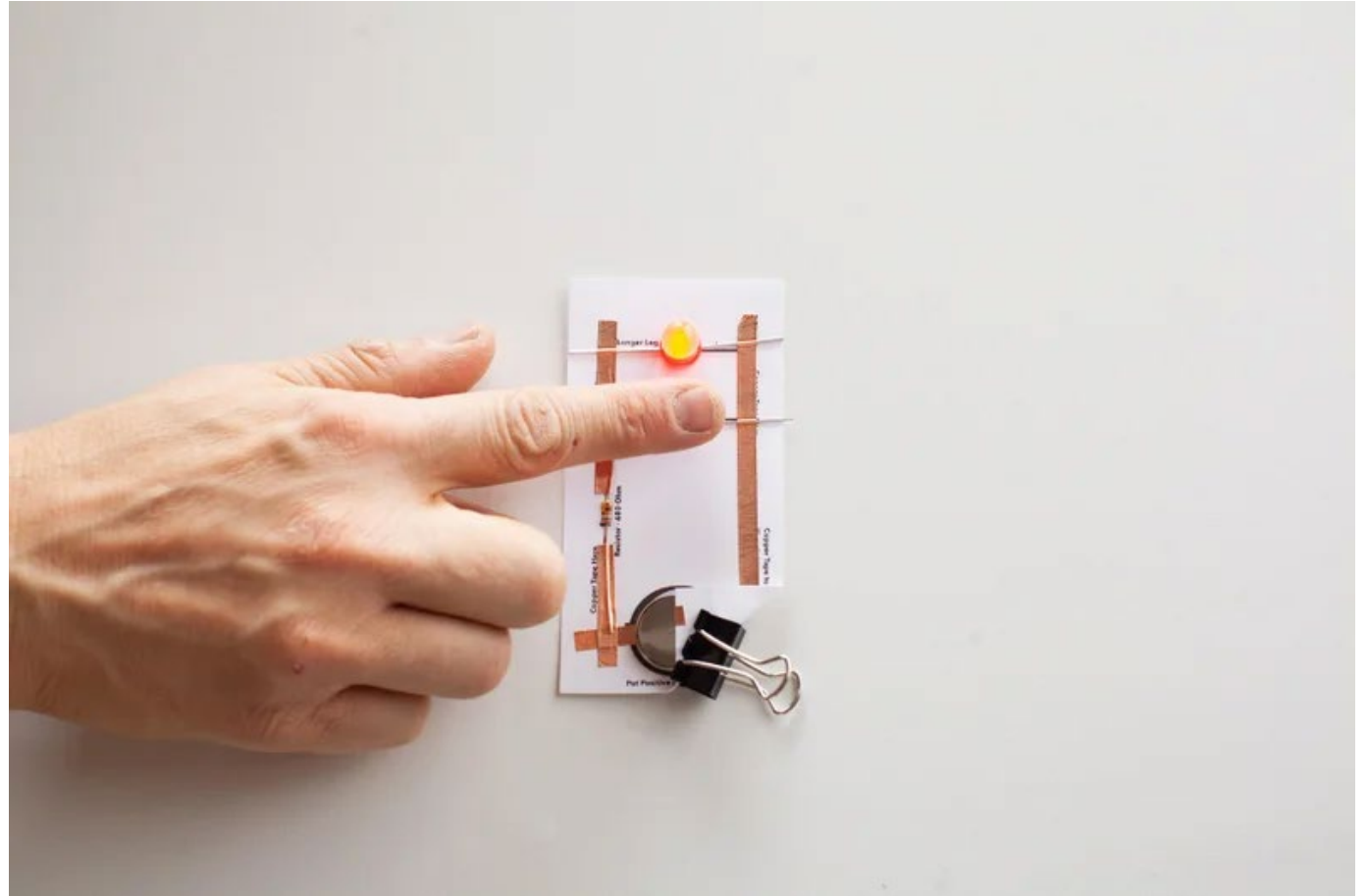
"When my interest in the trades began, I was amazed how fast friends and family rushed to support me. I learned from some tradesman that electricians made the most and were the 'King of the Trades.' That title is up for debate I'm sure, but a family friend strongly suggested I try for the Electrical Apprenticeship program through the IBEW [a labor union], and the rest is history." Electricians install, maintain, operate, and repair electrical equipment. Tyler Cross is an electrician and tradesman in Missoula, MT.

Learn more from Tyler here:

<https://tinyurl.com/weeyd3cx>



UNIVERSITY OF  
**MONTANA** | BROADER IMPACTS GROUP



Chat

I think of welding i think of metal

From Kiz to Everyone:

when i think of welding i think of really hot metal

From Done to Everyone:

I think of medal being blasted so hot that it melts but hardens really hard quickly to hold two pices together

From joann to Everyone:

its when you take a gun like tool and it sparks and it gets hot and then can stick

From Laura Newby to Everyone:

sewing with fire

To: Everyone

Type message here...



# AY21-22: What's Next

- Fall 2021: Health Careers Club (6 weeks, in person)
- Spring 2022: Trades Club (6 weeks, in person)
- Hands-on activities connected to careers
- Field trip to Missoula College
- Visits with career role models

# Lessons Learned

- Doing a hands-on activity together builds connections between students and role models.
- Despite its limitations, Zoom expands the possibilities.
- Consider ways to extend impact with inexpensive, take-home activities.