

**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**



# **Gerrity Chapter, Central Oklahoma**

**1 October 2020**

Jeffrey James, USAF (Ret.)  
VP, AFA Gerrity Chapter and STEM Programs Oklahoma

# AFA MISSION AND VISION



## AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this, we:

**EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.

**ADVOCATE** for aerospace power and **STEM education**.

**SUPPORT** the total Air Force family and promote **aerospace education**.

## AFA Vision

We will be the premier professional military and aerospace education association in the nation—dedicated to dominant air, space, and cyberspace power, a strong national defense, supporting the men and women of the United States Air Force, and **world-class aerospace education**.

*Join The Fight*



# AFA's Aerospace, Education Programs

- CyberPatriot
  - Introduced in 2009 by the non-profit 501(c)(3) Air Force Association (AFA) to address a **critical national need**
  - **Educates** young women & young men middle school through high school **about careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields to meet the needs of an increasingly technical workforce.**
    - since its initial launch participation has grown from eight teams to nearly **6,800 teams in 2019**. Geographically, the competition has grown from a single state (Florida) to all 50 U.S. states to include Canada, and beyond (international teams are now competing)
- StellarXplorer
  - Introduced in September 2014 by the Air Force Association (AFA) after an inquiry from the Air Force asking if AFA would consider a space version of our highly successful CyberPatriot program
    - National High School Space Challenge that involves a **hands-on, space design challenge** for ages 13-17 HS students
    - Involves all aspects of system concept development
    - Virtual participation using local computers



# Career Tech and AFA

- Partnership created in 2016
  - Milestones:
    - CyberPatriot and StellarXplorer curriculum added to the CareerTech website for all educators/teachers to use
    - **Curriculum was approved to be used as Oklahoma Promise credits**
    - 107 Teams across Oklahoma participated in CyberPatriot 2019
      - Central Technology Center 1 of 12 **National finalists** in the Open Division
    - 11 Teams across Oklahoma participated in StellarXplorer 2019
      - With 3 teams from Oklahoma competing in the semifinals
    - Outreach due to this partnership continues to grow across the state with AFA attendance at CareerTech sponsored teacher/educator workshops, conferences and other training opportunities

**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**



**Questions?**

**Contact Info**

**Jeffrey James / 405.245.3164**

**Email: [aero-ed@gerrityafa.org](mailto:aero-ed@gerrityafa.org)**