

# S.T.E.A.M. AND MAKER SPACE

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## S.T.E.A.M.

The mission of the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) department at Nunez Community College is the proliferation of STEAM and its related skills. STEAM is essential to ensuring that American workers are competitive in both local and national arenas. Opportunity and experience gaps are driving the American Science and Math Achievement Gap (PEW Research Center (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/15/u-s-students-internationally-math-science/>), 2018). As community educators, it is our mission to prepare a highly skilled and internationally competitive workforce. Large scale change starts locally and the STEAM Department at Nunez Community College is poised to deliver many opportunities to deepen the STEAM experience of Southeastern Louisiana.

## The Skillshop

A campus housed and public-facing makerspace that welcomes community members and encourages the development of STEAM skills and technology literacy. The Skillshop is crucial to the success of STEAM's overarching mission. Often, makerspaces are privately owned and operated for profit, strategically situating a curated collection of advanced manufacturing equipment behind expensive paywalls. This practice does not fit within our Nunez mission statement and instead we seek to use the space as a vehicle for the STEAM skill enrichment of our community members. All profit from the STEAM Makerspace at Nunez Community College will be returned directly to operation and enhancement of the space, and by extension, enhancement of our community. The Skillshop at Nunez Community College is a hub for local business development, STEAM skill proliferation, and community enrichment.