



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF
LEARNING SERVICES

WWW.ARKANSASED.ORG

Subject: Message #48: Learning Blade

Date: August 16, 2016

To: adecurriculum@lists.state.ar.us

From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dear Arkansas Curriculum Leaders:

Learning Blade is a statewide initiative to increase access for computer science and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers in every middle school. Grade levels involved are determined locally. This is a supplemental, game-based online STEM career awareness system and is not intended to be used as an intervention curriculum.

Learning Blade challenges students to take on game-based projects that expose them to different aspects of STEM careers. Arkansas is the second state to implement Learning Blade statewide and, at the Governor's request, Arkansas is the first state ever to deploy Learning Blade with a computer coding aspect. Students who have participated in the pilot expressed their "enjoyment" of the missions.

To register for free training in the Little Rock area, contact Jodi Fairchild at 501-492-4305 or by email at jfairchild@apsrc.net.

To register for training at a cooperative, login to escWorks at https://www.escweb.net/ar_esc/ and search by the keyword "Learning Blade."

Please refer to Commissioner's Memo LS-17-016

(<http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=2010>) for additional information.

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

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