



**SALISH KOOTENAI
COLLEGE**

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP AWARD
SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH



STEM ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER-FALL 2019

Andrea Panagakis-SKC STEM Academy Program Coordinator

The SKC STEM Academy welcomed 15 new students from four high schools on the Flathead Indian Reservation to campus during our fall Bridge program in August. We are excited to have them join our three second-year students at the Academy!

Activities included:

- SKC campus scavenger hunt
- Cultural visit to Black Lake
- Thumb drum construction with Frank Finley
 - Growth mindset
- Cookie conversion factors
- SEA-PHAGES lab skills
- Guest speaker Niki Graham





Summer Scope of Science Program

In June, the SKC STEM Academy held a summer Scope of Science Program for two weeks to introduce high school students from the Flathead Indian Reservation to the variety of careers possible in the sciences. Each day students had hands-on, minds-on experiences in STEM, including field trips to the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station and the National Bison Range. Guest speakers from CSKT Tribal Health and SKC provided their expertise and wealth of experience to make each day a fascinating journey into science. A huge thank you to our colleagues at Upward Bound for partnering with us for this endeavor!

Salish Kootenai College-Fall Quarter

Classes at SKC began Monday, September 3rd! The students are busy and engaged every afternoon with their dual enrollment courses, allowing them to earn both high school and college credit. In the fall, SKC STEM Academy students are taking Biology of Living Systems (lecture and lab) as well as a Science Research course that follows the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's SEA-PHAGES innovative science discovery program. Students are well on their way to becoming "phage hunters", discovering and isolating tiny viruses that infect soil bacteria in our environment. Students will then extract phages DNA, have the DNA sequenced, and eventually annotate a full viral genome.
