Winnebago Family Science

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The family science program, initially offered at the Santee Community Schools as a Proof of Concept Demonstration, was initiated in the Winnebago School District to the 5th and 6th grade classes. From the very onset of the unveiling of the initial family science concept by Dr. Henry R. Lehrer of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), the district gave its full support both operationally and administratively to making the initiative a success. Key individuals were Superintendent Dr. Virgil Likness, High School Science Teacher Terri Greenleaf, and Elementary Teacher Gary Hamm. While the beginning offerings were focused on elementary grades 5 and 6, it became readily apparent that junior high as well as high school students could and would play an important role as participants in emerging aeronautics and geospatial offerings as well as serving as student assistants/teachers aids for the program.

In addition, faculty, staff, and students at the nearby Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) began to engage with the family science program. Of importance was that many of the LPTC students were family members of the younger age children at the Winnebago Schools. To further the concept of strengthening the family involvement in assisting the elementary students improve their science and mathematics skills, the extended family became totally involved and provided strong mentoring. It was not uncommon to have three or even four generations of the family present for the science nights. The continuation and expansion to the presence of the LPTC family in the family science program is an important goal of both NASA which supports a significant portion of the program as well as Aviation Institute faculty and administration at UNO.

In the Gallery Collection on this website you will find several photos taken of students, teachers, parents, and family members attending various family science events.