Collegiate aviation programs are often limited in their outreach efforts, as equipment for "show and tell" demonstrations can be expensive, immobile, or both. For example, using actual aircraft is expensive and limits outreach events to airports only. Aircraft simulators are costly to operate and are difficult to move. However, the use of VR drastically reduces the cost of demonstrating the flight environment in outreach events, and VR headsets are a highly mobile.

The School of Aviation will incorporate VR as a tool to enhance the scope of one's exposure to aviation. VR makes possible the ability to demonstrate various aspects of flight operations that are otherwise inaccessible or unsafe. Some examples include demonstrating emergency procedures, flying in weather, and challenging landing scenarios. Providing participants with these experiences may foster a deeper understanding of the aviation industry.

Poster 8

Working Collaboratively with Federal Partners: An Example from OneOp

Kathleen Hlavaty, Faculty member, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, College of Human Sciences Molly Herndon, Community practitioner, Virginia Tech
Jasmine Lewis, Community practitioner, Virginia Tech
Kyle Kostelecky, Faculty member, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, College of Human Sciences
Brigitte Scott, Community practitioner, Virginia Tech

OneOp, a virtual professional development platform for providers who serve military families, has received continuous funding from the Department of Defense and USDA NIFA for 14 years. OneOp personnel and DoD SMEs work collaboratively to develop programming to support providers serving military families, using both emerging needs and evaluation data from the previous year's programming in the planning process. In this presentation, OneOp's Military Family Readiness Academy will be used to showcase the strategies and practices OneOp has utilized to collaborate effectively with our federal partner to meet the needs of service providers working with military families. Attendees may find these strategies and practices useful in their work to build stronger relationships with their funding partners.

Poster 9

The Auburn Informal STEM Connectory: Fostering a Transdisciplinary STEM Ecosystem

Virginia Davis, Faculty member, Chemical Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering Mary Lou Ewald, Faculty member, Outreach, College of Sciences and Mathematics Jess Gilpin, Staff member, Outreach, College of Sciences and Mathematics Rachel Prado, Faculty member, Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Sciences and Mathematics

The Auburn Informal STEM Connectory aims to create a transdisciplinary STEM ecosystem addressing societal needs in health, food, water, infrastructure, and well-being. Its mission is increasing Auburn's capacity to impact K-12 STEM education through synergizing existing activities. Near-term goals include facilitating networking, sharing best practices, and providing resources for informal STEM initiatives. Long-term goals include establishing Auburn as a leader in impactful STEM programming and scholarship, while defining needs and opportunities for a physical space to house Connectory activities and events . The Connectory will enhance student experiences, enable transformative research through funding opportunities, provide impactful service reaching all Alabamians, and leverage Auburn's unique position to address accessible STEM education needs.