

Flight commanders needed for Challenger Learning Center

Mars is a tough planet for fourth-graders to navigate, which is why adult flight commanders are such an important part of Woodstock Community Unit School District 200's Challenger Learning Center.

The center is looking for some new leaders to assist the crew that guides groups of students from across Illinois and southern Wisconsin through Expedition Mars and other fun STEM learning experiences and curriculum designed by the national Challenger Learning Center.

A job fair will be held from 4-6 p.m. Nov. 1 and from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 at the Challenger Learning Center, 720 West Judd (in the back of Olson Elementary School) to highlight the center's features and demonstrate what the jobs entail.

Denise Brock, director of the Challenger Learning Center, has been with the center since 2019 when District 200 acquired it from Aurora University in 2019 and said she's enjoyed leading students through the interactive STEM programs.

"My favorite part about it is that the kids come in excited and leave more excited," Brock said. "There's a predictability to your day, but there are fun twists in how a mission might run."

The flight director jobs are ideal for retired educators or parents with school-aged children who are looking for a fun place to work during hours when their children are in school. Brock said she is able to see her own children off to school and be home before the end of their day.

District 200 has a few part-time flight director positions open immediately. Mission field trips are fairly well booked for the remainder of the school year.

Candidates should have either a college degree in education, science, theater arts or one to two years of related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience, reliable transportation, general computer skills, strong communication and public speaking skills. The pay range is from \$15 to \$16 per hour.

For more information and a complete job description, click the employment tab on the district's website www.woodstockschoools.org/employment.



Denise Brock, director of Woodstock's Challenger Learning Center, coaches students from the Mars Rover on Oct. 19.



Flight commander Jerry Swedberg teaches a visiting student how to navigate communication functions from Mission Control on Oct. 19.