

**GATEWAY TO SCIENCE ETHANOL EXHIBIT**  
**Status Report: Contract R-027-036**  
**Provided April 1, 2020**  
**For the period of Jan. 1-March 31, 2020**  
**Provided by the North Dakota Ethanol Council**

**Objectives**

The objectives of this project are: 1) to increase the long-term use of ethanol in North Dakota by educating students, parents and educators in the region on the benefits of ethanol to the economy, environment and energy independence; and 2) to ensure the future of the ethanol industry workforce by engaging students, parents and educators in the lifecycle of ethanol production, specifically the scientific process of converting an agricultural product, which is a growing source of sustainable energy, into high-value co-products, including ethanol and distillers grains.

In addition to the North Dakota Ethanol Council (NDEC), partners in the program are Gateway to Science (GTS) and Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM), as well as ethanol industry stakeholders including: CTE Global Inc, Dupont, Gaviion, Growth Energy, Lallemand and New Age Cryo.

The strategy that will be implemented to meet the objectives is the installation of a hands-on, interactive, ethanol-specific exhibit to be utilized as a pilot at the current facility and then permanently installed at the new GTS facility in Bismarck, ND, which is scheduled to open in 2020.

**Strategy Progress**

For this period, gallery visitors totaled 2,403. Gateway to Science suspended all on-site operations on March 16, 2020, as part of city and statewide response efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before suspending on-site operations, Gateway to Science hosted STEM Adventure Mini-Camps on Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Feb. 18, and Mar. 13. Campers in grades 1-5 explored the exhibit gallery during each session. Gateway to Science also welcomed group visits from Turtle Lake Mercer School, Mary Stark Elementary, Classical Conversations Homeschool, Brentwood Baptist Church, Dunseith Day School, Naughton School, YMCA YDC Mandan, Liberty Elementary, Martin Luther School, and STEM Face to Face.

The ethanol exhibit was featured in the science center's January 2020 Capital Campaign Update e-newsletter.

## Exhibit engages visitors in life cycle of ethanol production

The ethanol exhibit in the Gateway to Science is a popular one with visitors of all ages. The exhibit engages students, parents and educators in the life cycle of ethanol production, specifically the scientific process of converting an agricultural product (corn) into high-value co-products, including ethanol and distillers grains. We hear cars driving and cows mooing throughout the day as guests explore the exhibit. Visitors often collaborate to complete the process, with each person taking one or two steps.

The exhibit is sponsored by the North Dakota Ethanol Council, ethanol industry stakeholders, and the Industrial Commission of North Dakota's Renewable Energy Program.



Gateway to Science has launched a “STEM at Home” website with resources for students and families to explore while schools and the science center are closed. The site is available at <https://gatewaytoscience.org/stem-at-home/> and is linked in daily social media posts. A video of the ethanol exhibit with supporting resources is planned for an upcoming post.

There are no expenses to submit for this reporting period.