On 18 January and 1 February 2020, ITEN teacher leaders Carmen Barnes and Michelle Hodges of Arizona, USA, facilitated two workshops for early childhood teachers who want to integrate STEM into their teaching. STEMteachersPHX in Phoenix and the STEMAZing Project in Tucson hosted the workshops.

The institutional team from Arizona serves the local and international teaching community, collaborating with teachers from Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona (USA) in addition to Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Teachers...

40...participated in full-day workshops in Phoenix and Tucson to get their hands "dirty" with STEM as they learned about a variety of physical concepts, including magnetism and air pressure.
Michelle notes that "These workshops...show teachers how easy STEM integration can be!"

Carmen Barnes was recently recognized by the University of Arizona Women in Science and Engineering Program for her incredible contribution to Excellence in K-12 STEM Education for Gender Equity. The way Carmen engages students in her kindergarten/first grade classroom at the IDEA School in Tucson with high quality hands-on, minds-on lessons is being shared with every educator she works with through her leadership roles.

Through her work with both English- and Spanish-speaking educators, Carmen is undoubtedly encouraging more girls to develop strong STEM identities by empowering their teachers to engage them with enthusiasm and confidence.

"My greatest accomplishment is being able to see the fruits of my labor when I go and see each teacher in their setting and get to see those teachers implementing the lessons we taught them. The joy that the children express when they are participating in STEM activities is more than enough reward for me." - Carmen