

Rory Peacock '01

Rory Peacock has taken his career in the education field from the small town of Woodson, Texas to multiple appearances in Washington D.C. sharing his work with the Federal Communications Commission. Along the way, Rory has earned the privilege of keynoting multiple conferences, delivering a graduation commencement, and teaching students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Two passions in the education field have driven him to push the envelope for the staff and students that he serves, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) education and classroom technology integration.

In 2015, he took the position of Deputy Executive Director at the Region 11 Education Service Center serving 77 school districts and approximately 600,000 students in the area of technology.

Within less than one year at Region 11, Rory had built a working partnership with a company in Los Angeles to produce an annual STEAM Carnival event for the students in the region. Since the inception of the event, he has developed local partnerships with Microsoft, Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter, the Perot Museum, and multiple more to produce a 3-day event for over 4,000 students and staff each year. This past March, he developed and coded a custom platform to host the event virtually due to the pandemic and safety regulations. The flexibility of the virtual event allowed for attendees across the entire state, including over 300 students who have been learning virtually this academic year.

While the STEAM Carnival has been a widely popular event, Rory's biggest accomplishment to date is the creation of the FIBER11 network throughout the region. Utilizing federal and state funding vehicles, he led a consortium of schools and partners to build out a fiber-connected network throughout 62 of the 77 schools in the region. The high bandwidth, resilient network proved to be a vital key throughout the pandemic providing schools with reliable connectivity to deliver virtual sessions to their students. This project totaled more than \$50 million, and coverage spanned an area roughly the size of the state of Massachusetts. In 2017, Rory was invited to Washington D.C. by the FCC to present the project as the "highlight of the year" and a "model for maximizing the goal" of the federal funding program. The FIBER11 project has been replicated in multiple regions based on his work and consulting and has impacted over 2 million students to date.

Rory has been honored with multiple awards at the regional, state, and national levels for his work in education. He is a frequent speaker at conventions and on podcasts and has been recognized by his peers as a leader in the educational technology industry.

