

Nathan Pritchett's Impact on Tulsa

Any movie about space I want to see, so when "Hidden Figures" came out I was so excited! I saw "Hidden Figures" and I felt that the movie was a good representation of how incredibly important people are not always noticed. There are many people who have gone unnoticed in the field of STEM in Oklahoma. I wanted to write about someone who has gone above and beyond and has opened up the door of STEM for many kids. I chose Nathan Pritchett because I thought he was making an impact on STEM in Tulsa. He is the Director of the Fab Lab. I think he is making an impact on the world of STEM in our community.

Mr. Pritchett is the Executive Director of the nonprofit Fab Lab near downtown Tulsa. The mission of Fab Lab is "Share advanced technology, build a creative community, empower the maker in all of us." I love that Fab Lab is sharing high tech machines with adults and kids in Tulsa. I feel that Tulsa needed a public accessible laboratory. It is hard to find machines like a 3D Printer, a 3D Laser Cutter and a Film Cutter anywhere else for kids to learn from. When I visited Fab Lab, I loved to see all the modern technology that they had for kids to use. I especially liked how friendly the staff was who helped us with our project. I could tell they were well-educated and how passionate they were about helping kids love science. I am glad that teachers now have the chance to go to the Fab Lab and take the information they learn back to their students. I feel that Fab Lab has helped people learn more about possibilities with technology. When I am in the Fab Lab I feel like there are no boundaries of what you can accomplish!

I think Mr. Pritchett's impact on our community to open the doors of STEM to kids will impact Tulsa for years to come. Maybe with his inspiration someone will come up with the next big idea! I am so thankful that he decided to move to Tulsa and work at Fab Lab and help educate kids and show them what they are capable of. He had many options to choose from and I am glad he chose this road to help bring STEM to Tulsa. I know there are many people from Oklahoma that have made an impact on STEM, but have gone unnoticed. I hope that Mr. Pritchett does not stay a "Hidden Figure" for long. His impact on STEM deserves to be recognized.