Ready for Launch

STEM camp takes off

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A handful of Tangipahoa Parish students will take flight in a few weeks, and their academic endeavors will stay airborne all month.

The fourth annual Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum summer camp, which focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics as well as aviation, prepared for takeoff Monday morning. The camp runs 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until June 29. Registration is ongoing and can be completed online at www.tahmstemaviation-camp.org.

Science exhibits from past summers and previews of what's to come this year lined a wall of the museum while parents and students were welcomed by a guest teacher from Carnegie Mellon University.

Millard McElwee, a licensed contractor in Louisiana, imparted his academic experiences and life advice to those gathered.

"You'll have plenty of people who doubt you along the way, so there's no need to doubt yourself," he said. "Always be hungry. If you fall down, always land on your back, because you can look up."

McElwee teaches a civil engineering introduction class at CMU where he completed

STEM CAMP - Camp director Brianna Carter and civil engineer Millard McElwee welcome students to the Tangipahoa Parish African American Heritage Museum STEM and aviation summer camp Monday morning. McElwee set up a system of microcontrollers linked to a program that campers will use to develop a water quality sensor over the course of the program.

UNDER CONTROL - A variety of remote controls lie in wait at the STEM summer camp, which will teach students how to fly a variety of model aircraft and, eventually, real aircraft.