Jose Garcia is a shining example of what a true collaborator can do for a school and its students.

He teaches 9-12th grade science and coordinates the school’s STEM program, but his reach extends far beyond that.

By working with math instructor Carrie Ann Miller, the STEM program’s success has led to a collaboration with Nash-Rocky Mount Schools to model a similar STEM program.

In an effort to provide opportunities beyond the classroom, he also organized the school’s first Robotics Club.

With 24 members, the Robotics Club provides students the opportunity to get practical experience with designing programming, and building robotic rovers.

The club currently partners with the local 4-H organization, assisting with community service events like Kids Vote, Clean Sweep, and the Community Garden.

Garcia has worked to connect the club with North Carolina State University and East Carolina University to visit each sites’ STEM related programs.

Garcia was named Greene Central High School’s and Greene County’s district Teacher of the Year in 2009-2010.

He has also been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Education for the technology-infused curriculum projects produced in his classroom.

Finding new ways to collaborate have not only allowed Garcia to add to his own experience and skills sets, but also allowed him to share his knowledge and talents with others.

He works with fellow Apple Distinguished Educator Tonia Aldridge and Apple Inc. to produce videos on using technology in the classroom. These videos can be found on iTunes. He also partners with the local community college through the Career and College Promise to offer students several career pathways to receive college credit.

He received his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University and his graduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in science education.