WHY STEM PLUS FAMILIES?

STEM careers in the United States are growing twice as fast as any other profession. This exponential growth has created a situation in which the demand for qualified STEM professionals is high, but the supply of STEM workers to fill these positions is low, especially among underrepresented groups like minorities and women. Parents and families have a very important role to play in closing the STEM gap, since they are influencers of students’ perceptions of what is possible for their future.

OUR VISION

All students have the family and community support necessary to access and pursue STEM opportunities and careers.

OUR GOAL

Increase access to STEM education and careers, especially among unrepresented youth, by developing, evaluating and sharing effective ways to inform and engage families in STEM experiences, while working with our partners to improve access to STEM school and community learning environments.

STRATEGIES

LEAD

1

Lead a collective impact approach to engaging families in STEM by inspiring educators, STEM professionals, community organization and private/public entities to develop strategies to engage families in school and community settings and share research findings about effective practices.

MOBILIZE

2

Mobilize schools and communities to engage families in STEM experiences and improve STEM learning environments by providing resources and support to enable local efforts.

BUILD

3

Build awareness about STEM education and career opportunities by educating families about the career opportunities available in STEM fields, as well as ways to influence and support their students’ education and career decisions.
OUR DESIRED OUTCOMES

RESEARCH
A body of research demonstrating effective ways to engage families in STEM

AWARENESS
Increased awareness about STEM opportunities and the ways families can influence students’ academic and career pathways to STEM fields

COMMUNITY
An active community of individuals, organizations and private/public entities that commit to encouraging family and community engagement in STEM and to sharing best practices and lessons learned

ONLINE
An online hub for sharing program models, proven strategies, research findings, evaluation tools and other resources for family and community engagement in STEM

EXPERIENCES
100,000 STEM experiences for families generated by June 2018

ADVOCACY
Improved school and community resources for STEM

TAKE THE STEM PLUS FAMILIES PLEDGE
Visit PTA.org/STEM and join a collaborative community that is committed to making a collective impact on increasing family engagement in STEM.

FOUNDING & PRESENTING SPONSOR

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