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STEM Learning Ecosystems Selects Michigan STEM Partnership to Join National Initiative and Receive Support to Build Regional Partnerships Focused on STEM Education Pathways

*STEM Funders Network to support **Michigan STEM Partnership's Southeast Michigan STEM Alliance** in collaborations that impact youth from pre-school through college and engage students during and after school*

(San Diego, CA – May 25, 2017) – The newly-formed **Southeast Michigan STEM Alliance** has just been selected to join the STEM Learning Ecosystems national initiative to make a significant impact on STEM education and workforce development. As announced at the U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference today, Southeast Michigan is one of 17 regional Ecosystems added to the national Initiative, which now encompasses 54 communities.

In just two years, the STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative has become a thriving network of hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals, joined in regional partnerships with the objective of collaborating in new and creative ways to increase equity, quality and STEM learning outcomes for all youth.

“It’s so important to consider the entire continuum of education,” said STEM Learning Ecosystem co-chairs Gerald Solomon, Executive Director, Samueli Foundation, and Ron Ottinger, Director of STEM Next. “The growing Community of Practice shares ideas and best practices for innovative learning that will benefit students’ individual development and prepare them for the demands of the 21st century workforce.”

The Michigan STEM Partnership’s Southeast Michigan STEM Alliance was selected to be one of 17 incoming ecosystem communities because of a demonstrated commitment to cross-sector collaborations in schools and beyond the classroom—in after-school and summer programs, at home, with local business and industry partners, and in science centers, libraries and other places both virtual and physical. As STEM Ecosystems evolve, students will be able to connect what is learned in and out-of-school with real-world opportunities.



“It makes sense to collaborate with like-minded organizations, but that doesn’t mean it’s easy,” said Gary Farina, Executive Director of the Michigan STEM Partnership and its’ Southeast Michigan STEM Alliance. “STEM Ecosystems provides technical assistance and infrastructure support so that we can tailor quality STEM learning opportunities to our specific needs in Southeast Michigan while leveraging the experience of similar alliances across the country.”

Early plans for the Southeast Michigan STEM Alliance are to expand representation on the Alliance leadership council, including all levels of education, business/corporate members, community, service, and professional organizations, government, and other stakeholders to begin regional development planning efforts.

The following ecosystem communities were selected to become part of the national STEM Learning Ecosystem:

- **Arizona:** Flagstaff STEM Learning Ecosystem
- **California:** Region 5 STEAM in Expanded Learning Ecosystem (San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey Counties)
- **Louisiana:** Baton Rouge STEM Learning Network
- **Massachusetts:** Cape Cod Regional STEM Network
- **Michigan:** Michigan STEM Partnership / Southeast Michigan STEM Alliance
- **Missouri:** St. Louis Regional STEM Learning Ecosystem
- **New Jersey:** Delran STEM Ecosystem Alliance (Burlington County)
- **New Jersey:** Newark STEAM Coalition
- **New York:** WNY STEM (Western New York State)
- **New York:** North Country STEM Network (seven counties of Northern New York State)
- **Ohio:** Belmont County Ohio STEM Initiative
- **Ohio:** STEM Works East Central Ohio
- **Oklahoma:** Mayes County STEM Alliance
- **Pennsylvania:** Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery STEM Learning Ecosystem
- **Washington:** The Washington STEM Network
- **Wisconsin:** Greater Green Bay STEM Network
- **Canada:** Symbiosis, British Columbia, Canada

Learn more about the national initiative at stemecosystems.org. Address specific questions to info@stemecosystems.org. Join online conversations on Twitter [@STEMecosystems](https://twitter.com/STEMecosystems) and #STEMecosystems and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/STEMecosystems).

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About the STEM Funders Network:

The STEM Funders Network brings together grantmakers working in STEM to learn from one another, leverage their collective resources and collaborate on high-impact projects they could not undertake alone. The vision of the STEM Funders Network is that all students should have equal opportunity to engage in high-quality STEM learning experiences that will enhance their ability to succeed in a STEM career or other chosen path. See

<http://www.stemfundersnetwork.org>

STEM Ecosystems funding and local supporting members of the STEM Funders Network

include: [Amgen Foundation](#), [Broadcom Foundation](#), [Burroughs Welcome Fund](#), [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), [KDK-Harman Foundation](#), [Motorola Solutions Foundation](#), [Overdeck Family Foundation](#), [Pinkerton Foundation](#), [Samueli Foundation](#), [Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation](#), [Simons Foundation](#), [Steinman Foundation](#), [STEM Next \(Supported by the Noyce Foundation\)](#), and [Tiger Woods Foundation](#).

For more information, please contact info@stemecosystems.org.

About the Michigan STEM Partnership:

The Michigan STEM Partnership, a 501c3 non-profit, promotes the impact of STEM careers on economic development across the State of Michigan, and strives to influence the career decisions of students as they prepare for their future. The Mission is to provide statewide connections and communications between employers, educators, students and parents, community and professional organizations, and policy-makers, providing strategic support for the development of resources and programs that provide for the effectiveness and sustainability of STEM education and talent development. Information about the Partnership can be found at MISTEMPartnership.com.