



NC STEM COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

The North Carolina STEM Community Collaborative, initiated in 2008 by MCNC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, engages local communities to envision and create innovative and sustainable STEM education linked to the regional economy. The “innovation neutral” STEM platform is characterized by individualization, equity, quality, and scalability. The Collaborative provides tools, context, and knowledge capture allowing communities to inform, align, and connect with regional, state and national resource networks of innovation and policy. By convening and facilitating activities within networks of networks, the Collaborative housed at MCNC will support students reaching their STEM potential while fostering educational innovations in North Carolina and throughout the United States.

The activities of the Collaborative fall into several distinct categories:

- **Convener/facilitator.** The Collaborative will serve as a convener and facilitator of networks linking the many STEM-related assets inside and outside the state. It will amplify the voices of individuals through locally oriented, innovative approaches to the academic needs of all North Carolina students.
- **Communicator.** The Collaborative will provide structured, formal, informal and new media communication to increase innovation in STEM education for all North Carolina’s students.
- **Knowledge capturer.** The Collaborative will capture knowledge about change and innovation that exists within communities and within industries, supporting data systems to inform decision-making within our state.
- **Advocate.** The Collaborative will support policy innovations with the support of community, cross-sector, and leadership networks directly engaged with STEM in NC. The Collaborative will help create a unified STEM vision among policymakers at the state and national levels.
- **Catalyst.** The Collaborative will push individuals, sectors and networks toward new activities that will help to ensure that economic and educational initiatives are viewed from the perspective of innovation.

All North Carolina students should have the opportunity to engage in rigorous, sustainable STEM education that provides them with good choices in life and bolsters the economic strength of their communities. The North Carolina STEM Community Collaborative is devoted to achieving this goal.

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