

STEM FORWARD

Your local STEM connection.

www.ssc.coop/stemforward

MISSION & VISION

MISSION
To promote STEM excellence in our K-12 schools.

VISION
Inspiring the future of a STEM ready workforce.

THE CHALLENGE:

- National, state, and local need for a strong STEM workforce.
- STEM literacy for everyone is an equity issue.
- Need for a local cohesive approach to STEM education.

> STEM Forward is doing such a great job of getting kids the life experiences/opportunities to empower their futures.
>
> ★★★★★ Chris Gogolewski, Middle School Teacher
> *Austin, MN*

WHY JOIN US?

- **COLLABORATION:** STEM Forward fosters collaboration between education, industry, non-profits, and community partners.
- **SHARED GOALS:** Working together to achieve a common goal: a strong regional STEM ecosystem.

BENEFITS:

- **EDUCATORS:** Access to resources, professional development, and networking opportunities.
- **BUSINESS:** Connect with a future-ready workforce and shape the curriculum.
- **NON-PROFITS:** Amplify your impact through collaboration.

INITIATIVES & IMPACT

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**: Upskilling educators and fostering connections.
  - *Educator Forum received an 86 Net Promoter Score in 2024 (World-class Ranking)*
  - 535 Continuing Education Units in 2024
  - *Asset mapping to identify current and potential partners*
- **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**: Providing resources for innovative STEM programs.
  - *Over $200K in grants to rural and under-represented communities*
- **CAREER AWARENESS:** Shining a light on STEM careers.
  - *Launching 10-15 Internships and 25 micro-internships in 2024 and 2025..*
- **OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS:** Celebrating educators for inspiring the minds of youth in STEM.
  - *Ten educators will be honored on Feb. 12, 2025.*

CONTACT US

sness@ssc.coop

507-281-6678



Learn more!

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ADVISORY MEETINGS

Network partners meet every other month for networking and peer-to-peer professional development on topics impacting our regional network. Best practices, innovations, grants, and resources are shared to promote and enhance STEM excellence and opoortunties in southeast Minnesota.

EDUCATOR FORUMS

This multifaceted event upskills educators' STEM pedagogy confidence and networks through peer-to-peer best practice sharing, connects regional STEM ecosystem members to resources that enhance the student STEM learning experience, and connects future educators to experiential STEM teaching experiences and careers available locally. CEU's and dinner provided. (This event is free for participating STEM Forward organizations.)

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS & DINNER

The Outstanding Educator Award of STEM Forward (formerly RAMSP) recognizes educators who strive toward the highest levels of excellence within their schools and community, with a focus on STEM initiative and continuous improvement in every aspect of their work. Nominees and award winners are celebrated at a community dinner and celebration.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Career Awareness Campaigns help shine a light on STEM sector careers and local community efforts to fill those roles. Many campaigns include social media and print support templates, best practices, and more.

GRANTS & RESOURCES

2023-2024 will be a year to remember! Three grant opportunities will be catalyzed through the STEM Forward network.

- STEM Justice | Partners: Ignite Afterschool, Minnesota Science Museum, & MN STEM Ecosystem | Funded by: Tina Smith's Office
- Renewable Energy | Partners: We Share Solar | Funded by: We Share Solar
- Launch Integration | Partners: Project Lead the Way | Funded by: Project Lead the Way

STEM DAY AT THE MN STATE FAIR

On the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair, in partnership with SciMathMN and other Minnesota STEM ecosystem partners, kids of all ages celebrate and explore the wonders of STEM through hands-on learning, interactive STEM experiences, and connections to nonprofit STEM education providers, student groups, and local businesses. Taking place in Dan Patch Park over 30 exhibitors provide hands-on and interactive opportunities to explore, discover, create, and be inspired.

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Example of our work: