



Partners Foundation

Executive Summary

The STEM Partners Foundation represents the efforts of over 30 companies and organizations who formed the STEM Utah Industry Coalition in 2013. The goal was to raise awareness for STEM education and support the creation of the STEM Action Center. To support these efforts, the Coalition raised over \$4 million to launch “Curiosity Unleashed”, a series of TV & radio spots, news stories, events and awards.

The campaign energized students, parents and teachers about the exciting world of STEM careers. The efforts of the STEM Action Center and many others, have contributed to higher STEM scores and graduation rates. Kids who once thought STEM was for “nurds” now think it’s cool, and parents don’t confuse it with “...cell research.”

These are the original STEM Utah Industry Coalition Partners:



Awareness has increased, and Coalition partners have found ways to engage with individual schools and projects. Many give their employees paid-release time to help teachers. These efforts have been tremendous but limited...due to the challenge of matching the large number of teachers who want support with industry professionals looking for the right opportunities to serve.

To help solve this problem a team of engineers and executives from Dell EMC, IM Flash, Comcast, Adobe, and Pluralsight, have built a free smartphone matching app called the STEM Mentor Exchange. STEM MX provides a way for teachers to post their curriculum and project needs, and then match them the offerings of time, talents and resources posted by industry professionals. The first version of STEM MX was release in July 2017.

There are over 200,000 STEM jobs in Utah today and that number is expected to increase by 25% in the next ten years. According to the Utah Department of Workforce Services about 7,000 STEM jobs are posted each week. An increasing number are not filled, forcing companies to go outside the state to grow.

Because industry is advancing so rapidly, many teachers lack the hands-on experience to teach their students the STEM skills they’ll need to fill these new jobs



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STEM MX is designed to improve collaboration between industry and education. It reduces the red-tape and makes it easier for teachers and professionals to connect...and build grassroots relationships. It does this through a database of teachers and professionals, who've listed their needs and offerings.



Industry wants to give back to the community, which has been popularized by the Pledge 1% initiative from Salesforce...where they give back 1% of their technology, talents, and resources.

STEM MX opens doors...providing, role models, learning experiences, and resources that professionals are anxious to provide.

We believe there is no other single initiative that can have a greater impact on our teachers and students, with the added ability to reach more underserved girls, minorities, rural and low-income families.

STEM MX will bring thousands of teachers and professionals together, dedicated to the success of our children.



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About the Foundation:

The STEM Partners Foundation, Inc. is a public nonprofit 501(c)(3), incorporated in the state of Utah. It was established on August 9, 2016. It's served by a board of directors:

- **Vance Checketts**, is the Vice President and General Manager for Dell EMC, Utah.
 - He is Chairman of the STEM Action Center Board and a member of the Governor's Economic Development Council.
- **Richard Nelson**, was founder and past-president of the Utah Technology Council. He represented the industry for almost 20 years and lead the creation of the State's \$100 million Fund of Funds to spur technology growth.
- **Stan Lockhart**, provided the leadership that led to the creation of the STEM Action Center in the Governor's Office of Economic Development.
 - Formerly a member of the State Board of Education and Director of Government Affairs at IM Flash.
- **Cyndi Tetro**, is founder and president of the Women Tech Council, a non-profit with more than 10,000 members devoted to the advancement of women in technology.
- **Dr. Tami Goetz**, is Executive Director of the Utah STEM Action Center, and formerly the Governor's Science Advisor.
- **Brent Lorimer**, a partner in the Workman Nydegger law firm, with expertise in patent, trademark, copyright, and licensing law.
- **Jason Pierce**, is a CPA and Financial Lead for Dell EMC, Utah.
- **Phil Cofield**, is the past-President of Junior Achievement in Utah and creator of JA City, a hands-on business experience for young students.
- **Brent Petersen**, is founder and Executive Director of the STEM Partners Foundation, formerly with the Comcast Media division where he helped create the "Curiosity Unleashed" campaign and STEM Mentor Exchange.