

Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development

What is the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development?

Carnegie Science Center's Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development will provide a focused forum for collaboration among key STEM education stakeholders, including: pre K-12 school districts, Pennsylvania Intermediate Units, colleges and universities, technical schools, business and industry, workforce and career development organizations, economic development organizations, government, parents and caregivers, and informal education providers.

Led by John Radzilowicz, director of science and education at the Science Center and his team, the Chevron STEM Center will unite all of the Science Center's existing award-winning STEM education efforts, including the Regional SciTech Initiative and the Girls, Math and Science Partnership programs. This new organizational structure is designed to facilitate the development and delivery of informal science education programs and to serve as a valuable collective of resources. The STEM Center is also establishing strong working relationships with local school districts.

The STEM Center will leverage regional and national resources to ensure maximum effectiveness in educating our constituency and influencing STEM practices. The Chevron STEM Center will act as a "center without walls" that will be a catalyst for community discussions, public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and an open resource for western Pennsylvania and beyond.

Carnegie Science Center has provided informal science education to our community for decades, and the STEM Center renews the Science Center's commitment to foster the next generation of innovators for years to come.

Mission and Goals:

The Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development will focus on two often neglected areas in STEM education – building meaningful and productive relationships among all STEM education stakeholders in the region; and developing and delivering high quality programs and experiences directly to the key STEM audiences of students, teachers, business leaders, parents, and other care givers.

The mission of the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development is to be a leader in creating and delivering high quality and effective STEM education programs by focusing on the following goals:

- Collaboration. The STEM Center will serve as a "town square" to bring together all stakeholders to collectively address STEM education in our region with a multifaceted approach that includes student programming, teacher training, business and industry needs, and government initiatives.

- Great Teaching. The STEM Center will strengthen STEM teaching at all grade levels, pre-K through 12, by helping to shape a core of highly capable and inspirational STEM teachers through partnerships with ASSET for the Teacher Education Center; and with the Math & Science Collaborative.
- Inspired Learners. The STEM Center will inspire student appreciation and excitement for STEM programs and careers to increase success and achievement in school and opportunities for a college education, especially among females and underserved students.
- A Committed Community. The STEM Center will, through a public awareness initiative and the nurturing of partnerships, achieve a sustained commitment to improving STEM education through innovation, communication, collaboration, evaluation and data-based decision making from a broad cross-section of the community, including business leaders, government officials, STEM educators, parents, and other stakeholders.

Why Carnegie Science Center?

As our region's leader in informal science education, Carnegie Science Center reaches roughly 700,000 people annually. The Science Center is well positioned to continue to foster and enhance the programming and the relationships - with higher education, business and industry, schools and teachers - that will make STEM education a top priority in our region, and create a model to be studied and emulated nationally. Additionally, CSC reaches literally millions of other individuals worldwide each year through our award-winning web sites, exhibition rentals, and planetarium show sales.

This STEM Center will unite all of the Science Center's existing and future STEM efforts under a single organizational structure, and will take advantage of the well-developed and successful programs and partnerships that already exist within the organization.

Because informational science education is experiential and interactive, by *doing* science, students are introduced to important science concepts in a fun and entertaining style. Also, because it is delightful and entertaining, they will comprehend and remember what they are learning. They can be messy, ask questions, and let their minds explore in a way that is often difficult to replicate in the classroom. In this way, the Science Center fully embodies the core concepts of informal science education and provides a laboratory for learning to millions of students and teachers in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. The Science Center inspires and supports classroom learning through education programs both on- and off-site.

The Science Center is an established advocate for STEM education and a leader in creating meaningful STEM partnerships. Through our Regional SciTech Initiative, and Girls, Math & Science Partnership, we engage more than 100 local companies and institutions to help provide STEM experiences in our region. The STEM Center will build on past success, and current engagement, as an advocate and leader in the field of STEM education.