



ABOUT THE FINGER LAKES STEM HUB

The Finger Lakes STEM Hub is a network of approximately 125 K-12 and college educators, community organizations, businesses, family and youth providers, advocacy groups, policymakers, researchers, and funders. It serves as a catalyst for collaboration and communication among diverse partners to promote quality STEM education and career exploration opportunities for youth to make them college and career ready. The Hub covers a nine-county region in the Greater Rochester Area and Finger Lakes Region, that includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties. It is a regional hub affiliated with SUNY's Empire State STEM Learning Network and the STEMx national network. The FLX STEM Hub was founded in 2007 as a project of the Rochester Area Colleges.

The Hub is led and managed by an Executive Director and an Assistant/Web Manager. An Executive Committee advises on matters of governance, administration, initiatives and strategic plan oversight. Members of the network volunteer to serve as leaders and members of Hub committees to carry out its initiatives/actions.

A STRATEGIC PLAN was adopted for 2018-2022. Its three priority areas focus on youth and drive the Hub's actions through professional learning of educators, community awareness to facilitate active engagement with STEM, and impactful partnerships to advance solutions to regional STEM challenges. The following are its current initiatives and actions:

- **STEM Recognition Program** – STEM education programs are evaluated using the NYS Quality STEM Rubric and then recognized at a special dinner event. Information on the programs that are recognized is disseminated throughout the region.
- **STEM Professional Learning Series** – The Hub offers a series of on-site STEM industry experiences, and plans to offer a practitioners' workshop to provide educators with an opportunity to learn about the skills and training needed for success in STEM career fields, and how to apply what they learned to the youth in their communities.
- **Regional STEM Forums** - The Hub has sponsored two annual fall forums, each focusing on a major STEM topic. 2017 addressed the Challenge of the STEM Middle Skills Gap and 2018 focused on Building the STEM Pipeline Through Technical Skills Training.

- **Roundtable of Network Members** – This meeting is convened monthly so network members stay abreast of STEM activities, engage in presentations, collaborate and form partnerships on various Hub and non-Hub directed activities. It typically meets the second Friday of each month at the Rochester Museum & Science Center.
- **AT&T Funded Projects** - The Hub has conducted pilot STEM projects that directly serve and motivate high school youth. In 2017 it partnered with the RCSD, RMSC, and Seneca Waterways Council of BSA to introduce and expose students to technology careers in Rochester. In 2018 it partnered with Greater Rochester After School Alliance, Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, Girl Scouts of Western NY and Seneca Waterways Council of BSA in a Teen Technology Challenge.
- **FLX STEM Hub Website** – A new website (<http://www.flxstem.org/>) has been developed to create a mobile-friendly, single portal to share information about STEM related activities, events, and resources in the region.

Community Networking Involvement

- The Hub participated in a 2019 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT sponsored by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council to grow the talent pipeline.
- In 2018 the Hub met with a delegation of STEM educators from the country of Belarus as part of the USAID Community Connections Program through Rochester Global Connections.
- Hub members meet periodically with local members of the NYS Board of Regents to discuss STEM education related policy and practice matters.

Partnership Opportunities Program

Our annual program financially supports Hub operations and includes the following organizations: AT&T, ON Semiconductor, Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC), Siemens Industry, C&S Companies, Terra Rochester Science and Engineering Fair, Optimax Systems, Monroe Community College, Wards Science, SUNY Brockport, WXXI PBS, Genesee Valley School Library System and Brockport Research Institute. The Hub operates under the tax-exempt status of the RMSC.

The Hub network continues to explore ways to create more opportunities for learning, awareness, and collaboration, in order to increase the participation of STEM constituencies.

For more information, please contact Joe Marinelli, Ph.D., Executive Director, Finger Lakes STEM Hub at (585) 704-4659, or flxstem.director@gmail.com