The SFN Announces Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (GCSC) As One Of 27 Inaugural Communities To Launch The STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative

GCSC Selected From An Invited Pool Of 70+ Applicants

(September 1, 2015 – Washington, DC) –The STEM Funders Network (SFN) announced today that Greater Cincinnati is one of the 27 communities selected to pilot the national STEM Ecosystems Initiative. This project, built on over a decade of research into successful STEM collaborations seeks to nurture and scale effective science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities for all young people. Greater Cincinnati's selection is a demonstration of their existing progress in developing a strong STEM community and recognition of the commitment to continue this work.

"These innovative communities are providing STEM learning opportunities for millions of young people both in- and out-of-school," said SFN co-chairs Gerald Solomon, executive director, Samueli Foundation, and Ron Ottinger, executive director, Noyce Foundation. "It is an initiative to design the kind of infrastructure that ensures that STEM learning is truly 'everywhere' and is a top priority for communities supporting youth to develop the skills and knowledge they need for success in a global workforce."

"We are thrilled that we've been selected to join this initiative and the Community of Practice," said Mary Adams, Program Manager for the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (GCSC). "Through innovative programs like the STEM Bicycle Club we're bringing together partners from across the region for the good of students and their futures. Support of the STEM Funders Network and collaboration with colleagues across the United States will accelerate progress against our mission to create a robust STEM pipeline of talent to meet the accelerating demand for STEM jobs in our region."

The 27 communities comprising the initial cohort of a national Community of Practice have demonstrated cross-sector collaborations to deliver rigorous, effective preK-16 instruction in STEM learning in schools and beyond the classroom—in afterschool and summer programs, at home, in science centers, libraries and other places both virtual and physical— that sparks young people's engagement, develops their knowledge, strengthens their persistence and nurtures their sense of identity and belonging in the STEM disciplines. As these STEM Ecosystems evolve, a student will be able to connect what they learn in and out of school with real-world learning opportunities, leading to STEM related careers and opportunities.

Launched in Denver at the Clinton Global Initiative, the STEM Funders Network STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative will form a national Community of Practice with expert coaching and support from leaders such as superintendents, scientists, industry and others. The first gathering of this Community of Practice will be hosted at the White House in November.

About the STEM Funders Network The SFN was formed in 2011 by a small group of funders from the Grant Makers for Education community to focus attention and better coordinate funding in support of robust STEM programs across the country. The SFN members fund individually as well as collectively and their work has supported the adoption and implementation of NGSS in all 50 states as well as dozens of STEM programs of promise.

Ecosystem funding members of the STEM Funders Network include: Samueli Foundation, Noyce Foundation, Overdeck Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation, and Simons Foundation with support by Amgen Foundation, Broadcom Foundation, KDK Foundation, Pinkerton Foundation and Tiger Woods Foundation.
For more information about SFN, please contact info@stemecosystems.org

About the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (GCSC)
GCSC is a non-profit with the mission to create a robust STEM pipeline of talent to meet the accelerating demand for STEM jobs in our region. GCSC brings education, community and business partners together to create hands-on, real life, relevant learning experiences for our students. These authentic experiences are proven to grow student interest in and confidence to pursue STEM careers. The GCSC is grateful for our sponsors: Partners for a Competitive Workforce, Strive Partnership, University of Cincinnati, and US Bank Haile.

For more about the GCSC contact visit http://greatercincystem.org/
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Complete list of sites selected from an invited pool of 70+ applicants to join the STEM Ecosystems Initiative's first cohort creating a STEM Community of Practice:

- Arizona SciTech Ecosystem (Phoenix, AZ)
- Bay Area STEM Ecosystem (San Jose, CA)
- BoSTEM (Boston, MA)
- Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative (Chicago, IL)
- Colorado STEM (Denver, CO)
- East Syracuse Minoa Central School District STEM Learning Ecosystem (East Syracuse, NY)
- ecosySTEM KC (Kansas City, MO)
- Great Lakes Bay Regional STEM Initiative (Freeland, MI)
- Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem (Austin, TX)
- **Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (Cincinnati, OH)**
- Indiana STEM Ecosystem Initiative (Indianapolis, IN)
- Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership in Western New York (Buffalo, NY)
- Learning Ecology Network of STEM in Evanston (Evanston, IL)
- Los Angeles Regional STEM Hub (Los Angeles, CA)
- NC STEM Ecosystem: Driving the Future (Research Triangle Park, NC)
- Northeast Ohio STEM Learning Ecosystem (Cleveland, OH)

- NYC STEM Education Network (New York, NY)
- Orange County STEM Initiative (Corona Del Mar, CA)
- Oregon's Statewide Regional STEM Hub Network (Salem, OR)
- Pittsburgh Regional STEM Ecosystem (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Providence After School Alliance (PASA) AfterZone STEM – FUSE Initiative (Providence, RI)
- Queens 2020 (Corona, NY)
- San Diego EcosySTEM (San Diego, CA)
- STEMcityPHL Regional Network (Conshohocken, PA)
- Tampa Bay STEM Network (Tampa, FL)
- Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (Tulsa, OK)
- Ventura County STEM Regional Network (Learning Ecosystem, Camarillo, CA)

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