

Application for Inclusion on the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's

List of Recommended STEM Education Programs

Background and Benefits to Programs

In its State Strategic Plan for STEM, the Nevada STEM Advisory Council established priorities and goals to ensure that all of Nevada's students have access and opportunities to gain a high-quality STEM education. One of the key strategies recommended in the plan is to identify and fund evidence-based, high-quality formal and informal STEM practices and programs. To accomplish this strategy, the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) has partnered with STEMworks at WestEd for the purpose of developing a Nevada-specific rubric to evaluate and identify high-quality STEM programs. STEMworks has developed a set of research and experience-based design principles for effective STEM programs and a rigorous independent evaluation process to provide guidance for measuring the quality of STEM programs.

OSIT and the Nevada STEM Advisory Council seek applications from STEM education programs that meet STEMworks' criteria for "accomplished" or "promising" programs. Selected programs will be included in the STEMworks database and the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list of recommended STEM programs. This is **not** an application for funding. However, school districts in Nevada may apply for future STEM education funding from the Nevada Department of Education's College and Career Readiness grant to fund STEM programs on the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list. Additionally, the Nevada Legislature, local school districts, and private philanthropy in Nevada may also in the future use the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list to guide their STEM education investments.

Summary of Important Deadlines

- August 31, 2018 –Application opens.
- Week of September 3rd, 2018– Webinar for prospective applicants.
- September 24, 2018, 5 pm Pacific Time – Pre-screening due for new applicants.
- October 1, 2018, 5 pm Pacific Time – Application closed.
- Week of December 3rd, 2018 – Programs notified of selection

Eligible Applicants

STEM education program providers who have the capacity to serve school districts, schools, teachers and students in Nevada.

Webinar orientation for prospective applicants

STEMworks will hold a webinar on the rubric and the application process during the week of September 3rd, 2018. A registration link will be posted once the date has been confirmed. A recording of the webinar will be available.

Application Instructions

Please use the [STEMworks webpage](#) to submit your STEMworks application and the Nevada supplemental questions. Programs already in the STEMworks database do not need to complete the STEMworks application again and are only required to respond to the Nevada supplemental questions.

Questions?

For more information on the Nevada supplemental questions, please reach out to Brian Mitchell at blmitchell@gov.nv.gov.

For other questions or technical assistance with your application, please contact stemworks.info@wested.org.

The Proposal Process

1. Register. Programs must **register** with the CTEq proposal site to gain access to that site.
2. Create a program profile. Programs are asked to provide basic information about themselves.
3. Upload supporting documents: Before programs can begin the full proposal, they must upload some basic documents into the system. Programs that do not provide sufficient documents are referred back to the proposal website for examples of the types of evidence expected in a STEMworks proposal. All documents must be uploaded in PDF format. When you upload a file, you will be able to add a brief description. Programs are expected to have most, though not necessarily all, of these documents before they can complete a full proposal:
 - Strategic plan
 - Annual report
 - Budget report
 - List of partners
 - Evaluation plan
 - Organizational chart
 - Alignment to relevant standards (STEM content and/or practices)
 - Sample curriculum or program activities
4. Complete the online STEMworks program ratings: Applicants rate themselves as “Accomplished”, “Developing”, or “Undeveloped” on each of the ten CTEq Design Principles.
 - After rating themselves each Design Principle, applicants must provide an explanation of their self-rating. This explanation not only justifies the self-assessment, it provides reviewers with a clear understanding of how evidence provided for the pre-screen checklist supports the self-rating. Applicants also select each uploaded evidence file cited to in the summary paragraph.
 - Applicants may use the same evidence to support their claims for more than one Principle, but summaries should clearly convey how each Principle is specifically supported by the evidence programs cite. Applicants should be as specific as possible: where possible, they should cite specific page numbers in their evidence to spare reviewers the trouble of reading extraneous information.
 - The Rubric offers examples of evidence that can support each Design Principle.
 - Applicants are able to review and update self-ratings and evidence at any time prior to submission.
5. Complete the Nevada-specific questions.
6. Upload a single PDF document containing all self-ratings and explanations for each STEMworks principle and each Nevada-specific question.

Evaluation

A team of independent reviewers selected by the Nevada STEM Advisory Council review all program proposals. The review process will determine if the evidence provided by the applicants supports each program's self-ratings. It will also determine whether programs are qualified for inclusion in the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list. Following the reviews, programs not admitted to the STEMworks database will be able to submit revised proposals when the next round is announced.

Nevada has a unique landscape and diverse industries across cities and towns of vastly different size and composition. To qualify for the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list of recommended STEM programs, programs must address the needs of all of Nevada's students. To be considered, programs must respond to Nevada-specific questions, including three required questions and one “additional priority” question.

Overview of the Evaluation Process

1. First, Nevada reviewers selected by the Nevada STEM Advisory Council review proposals against CTEq's Design Principles for Effective STEM Philanthropy. Programs the reviewers deem "Promising" or "Accomplished" are included in CTEq's STEMworks national database of effective STEM education programs. CTEq promotes programs in STEMworks to funders nationwide. All programs submitting an application will receive feedback from reviewers.
2. Second, Nevada reviewers will evaluate proposals that make it into STEMworks against an additional set of Nevada-specific criteria to assess whether programs merit inclusion in the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list of recommended programs. All applicants must complete the STEMworks proposal form as well as the Nevada-specific set of questions.

Reviewers will assign each submitted program as one of four categories:

1. Unsuccessful programs have not met the expectations for "Accomplished" or "Promising" programs. Neither Change the Equation nor the Nevada STEM Advisory Council will reveal the names of programs that have submitted proposals but have not been admitted to STEMworks.
2. "Promising" programs may be too new to present strong evaluation data, for example, but they show the potential to be "Accomplished" with further development.
3. "Accomplished programs" meet the national STEMworks criteria for admission but are not included in the Nevada list.
4. Programs on the Nevada STEM Advisory Council's list of recommended STEM programs have made it into STEMworks as either "Accomplished" or "Promising" and have demonstrated they merit recommendation for funding in Nevada.

How does Change the Equation define "Accomplished" and "Promising" programs?

"Accomplished" programs meet the following definition:

- They do not receive an "Undeveloped" rating on any Design Principle
- They receive "Developing" ratings on no more than three Design Principles
- They receive an "Accomplished" rating on Principle A (Need) and at least one of the following principles: Principle G (Content); Principle H (STEM Practices); or Principle I (Inspiration).

"Promising" programs meet the following definition:

- They receive "Undeveloped" ratings on no more than four Design Principles: Principle B (Evaluation); Principle C (Sustainability); Principle D (Replication); and Principle E (Partnerships).
- They receive an "Accomplished" rating on Principle A (Need) and at least one of the following principles: Principle G (Content); Principle H (STEM Practices); or Principle I (Inspiration).