2014 STEMworks Database
Showcasing “proven” and “promising” educational programs that improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning.

Request for Proposals

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

A webinar is scheduled for January 28, 2014 2:00 MST to review the full application process.

Part 1 – Letter of Intent:  **Monday, February 10, 2014 5:00 pm MST**
External Review Process and Candidate Selection

Part 2 – Application Submission:  **Thursday, March 20, 2014 5:00 pm MST**
External Review Process and Selection for Inclusion in STEMworks Database

www.sfaz.org

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Introduction

Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is working with Change the Equation (CTEq), a nonprofit, nonpartisan, industry-led initiative, on the STEMworks database to help educators, business leaders, and other funders identify and support educational programs that improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning experiences and impact.

This SFAz-led pilot will focus on Arizona STEM education programs that have merit and command attention in Arizona and nationally. SFAz, a non-profit organization dedicated to growing Arizona’s economy through strategic linking of education, research and industry, is looking for 25 STEM teaching and learning programs developed and/or delivered in Arizona for consideration and inclusion in the CTEq STEMworks database. Programs selected will benefit from exposure across Arizona and nationally to funders and users.

The submission process consists of two parts. Part 1 is a letter of intent that will provide a brief description of your program and your acknowledgement of the application process. Part 2 will be a submission of a full application through CTEq’s STEMworks database. Each will be reviewed utilizing CTEq’s Design Principles for Effective Philanthropy and an accompanying Rubric. Once an external panel of independent experts review all letters of intent, an estimated 25 programs will be selected to participate in part two and will be invited to submit a full application for final selection.

Every applicant program will receive detailed feedback on its application’s strengths and weaknesses. The names of programs and any related information about the programs that apply but are not admitted will be held in strictest confidence.

Objectives

The Science Foundation Arizona pilot of the CTEq STEMworks database intends to:

- Attract and showcase proven and promising education programs.
- Network and promote your program to Arizona local and national funders and educators.
- Assist Arizona districts, schools and teachers locate STEM programs to initiate.
- Link business leaders and other funders to noteworthy STEM initiatives.

Programs accepted into the STEMworks database can promote their inclusion as a sign of quality and will be promoted nationally and in Arizona to schools, districts and funders. STEMworks programs are noteworthy for their ability to show evidence of their impact and demonstrate their effectiveness in addressing the needs of their target audience.
Proven programs meet the national standards for evidence-based STEM education programs established by Change the Equation (CTEq), framed by the STEMworks Rubric, and based on the CTEq’s Design Principles for Effective Philanthropy [add link]. The Rubric sets rigorous criteria that distinguish program submissions to STEMworks as Accomplished, Developed, or Undeveloped.

Promising programs expand the three categories (Accomplished-Developed-Undeveloped) to include STEM Learning Programs that may not yet reflect the level of experience and record of evidence required of programs in the STEMworks National Database.

Promising is a unique designation of the Arizona STEMworks Pilot for identifying and vetting STEM Learning Programs more broadly, in Arizona first, before expanding the pilot in other states. The Arizona Pilot is intended to align with the STEMworks National Strategy. Submissions to the Arizona Pilot that are judged to be initially more qualified may be recommended directly to the National program.

Submission of a Letter of Intent initiates a process that leads to an invitation to submit a full proposal that is reviewed by an extramural committee of peers. The review and selection process is aligned and synched with the National STEMWorks program.

Eligibility

Any STEM learning program developed and/or delivered in Arizona that serves PK-12 students and teachers, in or out of school, can apply. Applicants will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts against Change the Equation’s Design Principles for Effective Philanthropy and an accompanying Rubric.

Application Process

Part 1 – Letter of Intent

All interested applicants should submit a Letter of Intent no longer than two pages (12 pt. font) and include the following:

- Letter of Intent Cover Sheet – Appendix A
- Title of the program (100 characters maximum)
- Brief program description (200 words maximum)
- Other items responsive to the STEMworks Design Principals and Rubric*

*A full application will require submission of higher-level evidence. For purposes of the Letter of Intent, please include only a brief description of the items listed in the Rubric A-J.

It is expected that 25 programs will be selected to submit a full application for inclusion in STEMworks. Letters of Intent will be reviewed and applicants notified by February 24, 2014 if they have been selected to submit a full application through STEMworks.

SFAz will only accept submissions with a fully completed Letter of Intent Cover Sheet that has been signed by the appropriate program signatory authority.
Part 2 – Application

An invitation to submit a full application follows from the Letter of Intent. Full application submission will include the following:

- Complete Checklist – Appendix B
- Acknowledgement of viewing the “How it Works” video http://changetheequation.org/stemworks/home/index.php or participation in the Jan. 28, 2014 webinar 2pm (MST)
- Design Principles for Effective Philanthropy
- Rubric

Notification of inclusion in STEMworks and review of all applications will be finalized in early May 2014.

Submission Details and Deadlines

A webinar is scheduled for January 28, 2014 2pm (MST) to review the full application process.

AZ STEMworks Webinar Information:

Informational Webinar: Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 2:00 pm, MST
To join the online meeting on January 28th, click here.  
Teleconference information: Provide your phone number when you join the meeting to receive a call back. Alternatively, you can call toll-free: 1-8774132826, conference code: 650 381 6447#
To add this meeting to your calendar program (for example Microsoft Outlook), click this link.

Part 1:  Letter of Intent Submission Deadline:  
February 10, 2014 5:00pm MST  
Electronic submissions to Stephanie Torigian at storigian@sfaz.org

Part 2:  Full Application Submission Deadline:  
March 20, 2014 5:00pm MST  
Direct submission into the STEMworks database

For questions regarding promising practices or Arizona based programs (can also have practices nationwide or within other states) please contact: Darcy Renfro, Director of Arizona STEM Network at drenfro@sfaz.org

For questions regarding CTEq STEMworks database, programs based in states other than Arizona, or national programs please contact: Mark Loveland at mlovela@wested.org
### Science Foundation Arizona
#### 2014 STEMworks Database

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4a. I confirm acknowledgement of the full application and submission process. I have read the RFP, checklist and rubric and have viewed the “How it Works” video or commit to participating in the webinar on January 28th, 2014. I understand the above components are all essential in submitting Part 2 of the full application.

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Program Checklist
FOR FULL APPLICATION

Science Foundation Arizona wants to ensure all interested programs understand the kind of evidence that will be expected and reviewed in determining whether a program is accepted into the STEMworks database. While evidence will not be required unless programs are asked to submit a full application, please review the list below for as examples.

☐ Strategic Plan
☐ Annual Report
☐ Budget Report
☐ List of Partners
☐ Evaluation Plan
☐ Organization Chart
☐ Alignment of State Standards (STEM content and/or practices)
☐ Sample Curriculum or Program Activities

For a more detailed information on evidence expected in the full application, please consult the Rubric.