

## WHY SHOULD STEM PROFESSIONALS PARTNER WITH EDUCATORS?



Jobs requiring knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are growing at a faster rate than others and offer higher wages and reduced unemployment. However, many companies are struggling to find enough highly qualified candidates to fill STEM positions. Underequipped with foundational knowledge and skills, too few students develop interest in—and ultimately pursue—STEM majors and careers. STEM professionals can help to address this problem by making classroom educators more aware of STEM occupations and the knowledge and skills they require.

## HOW CAN TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS AT STEM COMPANIES PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CAREERS?



Following a successful 2017 pilot, the national education improvement nonprofit ASSET STEM Education will be hosting a new cohort for the impactful “Project-Based Learning through Teacher Externships” program. With support from the BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the PPG Foundation, this no-cost program provides educators with externships at STEM-related businesses where they will observe, first-hand:

- The challenges their students must be equipped to address in future careers
- The knowledge and skills required to succeed in a 21st century workplace
- Ways to bridge classroom learning with real world challenges through Project-based Learning

Educators will engage in a two-day Project-based Learning course prior to participating in a half-day externship at a regional business. An additional one-day session will be provided to help teachers incorporate their externship experience into the classroom.

## WHAT WILL STEM EXTERNSHIPS HELP STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE?



- Practice applying 21st-century skills: collaboration, communication, critical thinking & problem solving, creativity & innovation
- Engage in real-world, authentic problems
- Develop skills for living in a knowledge-based, highly-technical society
- Learn project management skills
- Build awareness of STEM career paths and the requirements needed for career success
- Develop a realistic sense of workplace accountability

## WHAT IS THE STEM PROFESSIONAL'S ROLE?

- Participate in an on-boarding phone call (1 hour; Fall 2018)
- Host an educator at your workplace to develop their understanding of the knowledge, demands and skills students need for today's work environment (at least 1/2 day; Fall 2018)
- Be available for check-ins with the teacher and students for their Project-based Learning “problem of practice” by email, phone and/or videoconference (pending availability; 2018-19)
- Participate in student presentation of Project-based Learning (optional; Spring 2019)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP:**

Visit [assetinc.org/PBL](http://assetinc.org/PBL) or

Contact Gina DeAngelo ([GDeAngelo@assetinc.org](mailto:GDeAngelo@assetinc.org) / 412-481-7320 x205)