

Minnesota STEM Ecosystem Awards Partnership Grants to Expand STEM Career Pathways and Workforce Development Statewide

1.23.26 —The Minnesota STEM Ecosystem is proud to announce the award of more than a dozen Partnership Grants to **STEM education and workforce-focused initiatives across Minnesota totaling more than \$700,000.00**. As part of the investment from the Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem Partnership Grants are designed to expand access to high-quality STEM learning experiences that align with in-demand career pathways and emerging technologies.

Over the next two years, the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem—[working with more than 50 STEM learning partners across the state](#)—will support the skills and experiences young people need to thrive in Minnesota’s innovation economy. Through these grants, the Ecosystem will support and expand programs such as:

- **STEM internships** in-demand career pathways
- **Robotics, drones, VR, and other skilled learning programs** that prepare youth for real-world STEM careers
- **AI pedagogy** to equip educators with tools for 21st-century instruction
- **Educator externships in STEM and emerging technology sectors** connecting teachers with real-world industry experience

Minnesota faces urgent STEM workforce needs: today, nearly 40% of job openings are in STEM-related fields, but fewer than 40% of high school graduates meet STEM career readiness benchmarks—especially in Greater Minnesota. This funding represents a critical step forward in addressing those gaps.

To learn more about the programs and [2026 partnership grant awards](#); visit the website at stemmn.org.

About the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem:

The STEM Ecosystem works to align formal and informal STEM education with workforce needs, expand access to high-quality programming, and drive innovation through regional and statewide collaboration.

The State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) funded (in whole or in part) this workforce development product (training, event, curricula, etc.) through a grant. The grant recipient created this product. DEED does not endorse this product or make guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership of the information herein or elsewhere.

For more information, visit: stemmn.org

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