



MINNESOTA **STEM** ECOSYSTEM

First Quarter, January 2026

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

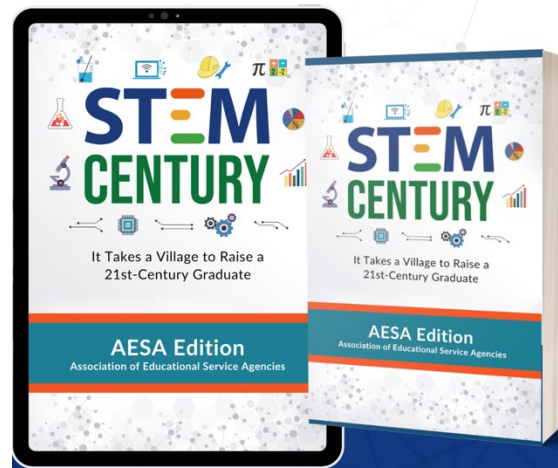
Expanding STEM Learning and Workforce Development Statewide

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 including:

- 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

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.



MN STEM Ecosystem featured in STEM Century: It Takes a Village to Raise a 21st Century Graduate

The Minnesota STEM Ecosystem is excited to announce the release of *STEM Century: It Takes a Village to Raise a 21st Century Graduate – AESA Edition*!

The STEM Ecosystem was invited by the Lakes Country Service Cooperative to be a contributor in the Minnesota Chapter focused on the relationships — between students and mentors, schools and industries, learning and opportunity — that anchor our STEM and CTE work. These connections are what turn programs into pathways!

The book is available now on Amazon.

Learn more about the Partnership Grant Program at stemmn.org.



Minnesota STEM Day at the Capitol

Hosted by the MN STEM Ecosystem and SciMathMN

On April 15, 2026 the Minnesota State Capitol will be buzzing with excitement as more than 30 organizations came together for STEM Day at the Capitol. Hosted by the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem and SciMathMN, the event will highlight the importance of STEM education and workforce development in Minnesota.

From 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, the Rotunda and L'Etoile du Nord Vault will be transformed into a hub of hands-on, interactive, and student-focused STEM activities. Attendees, including students, educators, industry leaders, and policymakers, can explore cutting-edge innovations in science, technology, engineering, and math. The event showcases programs designed to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals and address the growing workforce gap in these fields.

"STEM Day at the Capitol is an opportunity to demonstrate how STEM learning—both in and out of the classroom—drives innovation, strengthens our economy, and prepares students for future careers," said Emily Saed, Director of the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem.

When we bring together Minnesota's STEM Learning Partners, K12 and Higher Education, Businesses, and Policymakers, we can work collaboratively to expand access to STEM opportunities across Minnesota- strengthening our workforce and building our innovation economy.

Learn more about STEM Day at the Capitol, including how to be an exhibitor, at stemmn.org.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

February 7, 2026 Women and Girls in STEM Day at the **Science Museum of Minnesota**! Discover the impactful careers and contributions of women and girls in healthcare, technology, and other STEM professions, with on-site demonstrations and presentations from local scientific organizations.

February 10, 2026 Join us at the **Mn State Engineering Center of Excellence Virtual STEM Educator Workshop**. Hear from Alyssa Boswell, CEO and co-founder of Upper Story - a game/toy company in Minnesota. The session focuses on using play and hands-on experiences to build foundational STEM skills across grade levels and learning environments.

February 11, 2026 Join the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem for the **AI Unleashed Educator Forum** hosted by the **Southeast Service Cooperative**! Explore the power of AI in education in engaging sessions on computer science, math, science, and integrated STEM and technology learning.

February 13, 2026 Join the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem at the **MnACTE Annual Conference**, a gathering that serves as a collaboration space for Career and Technical Education professionals. Hosted at the Best Western Kelly Inn in the heart of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Learn more about these events and more at stemmn.org.