



MINNESOTA  
**STEM**  
ECOSYSTEM

Second Quarter, April 2026

## 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.

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*"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.

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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.

[stemmn.org](http://stemmn.org)



## COOLEST PROJECTS RETURNS TO MINNESOTA APRIL 11!

Mark your calendar and get ready for the Coolest Projects USA. This is a free in-person event for young tech creators.

It will be held on April 11, 2026 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Participants can share their projects with family, friends, and their coding community, get fun swag and certificates to celebrate their achievements, and try hands-on coding activities at the event.

Coolest Projects is part of a global initiative by the Raspberry Pi Foundation.



**Raspberry Pi**  
Foundation



**Science  
Museum**  
of Minnesota®



# Professional Development

*Minnesota State is connecting Educators with Industry*



Educator externships play a critical role in bridging the gap between classroom learning and the rapidly evolving demands of today's workforce. **By engaging directly with industry, educators gain firsthand experience with current technologies, practices, and career pathways, allowing them to bring relevant, real-world context back to their students.** These experiences not only strengthen instructional practice, but also help students better understand how their learning connects to future opportunities. Investing in educator externships ensures that classroom instruction remains current, career-connected, and aligned with Minnesota's workforce needs.

The Minnesota State Centers of Excellence regularly offer professional development for educators that includes hands-on, industry-connected professional learning for STEM educators, including curriculum training, externships, NSF-funded institutes, and conferences. Many opportunities include stipends, equipment, CEUs, or no-cost participation, all focused on connecting classroom learning to real-world careers and Minnesota workforce needs. All programs are coordinated or supported by Minnesota's Centers of Excellence to strengthen career-connected learning and educator capacity statewide.

**To learn more visit [stemmn.org](http://stemmn.org) or visit the Centers of Excellence directly [HERE](#).**

## Upcoming Events and Conferences

**Saturday, April 11, 2026** Don't miss the **Works Museum: Build It Expo**. This hands-on, family-friendly event introduces kids ages 5–12 to careers in construction, architecture, engineering, and the skilled trades through interactive activities and demonstrations. [Learn More.](#)

**June, 2026** Join us at the **RPS/ZED Middle School Career Academy!** This engaging, hands-on experience is designed to introduce middle school students to a variety of career pathways through immersive activities. The camp highlights eight career pathways—Agriculture, Construction, Culinary & Hospitality, Health Sciences, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Public & Emergency Services, and Transportation—each providing unique opportunities for students to explore and gain practical insights into these fields. [Learn More.](#)

**August 3-6, 2026** Check out the **Midwest Teachers of Transportation and Industrial Areas (MTTIA) Conference**. MTTIA is more than a conference—it's a community. Join secondary and post-secondary educators from across the Midwest for hands-on training, networking, and professional development. Learn the latest in vehicle technology and teaching strategies from expert trainers and OE manufacturers. [Learn More.](#)

**Learn more about these events and more at [stemmn.org](http://stemmn.org).**