PITTSBURGH, Sept. 3, 2015 — The STEM Funders Network (SFN) announced this week that Pittsburgh Regional STEM Ecosystem is one of the 27 communities selected to pilot the national STEM Ecosystems Initiative. This project, built on over a decade of research into successful STEM collaborations, seeks to nurture and scale effective science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities for all young people. Pittsburgh’s selection is a demonstration of its existing progress in developing a strong STEM community and recognition of the commitment to continue this work.

The Pittsburgh Regional STEM Ecosystem planning partners are: the Remake Learning Council, Carnegie Science Center, ASSET STEM Education, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh Learning Research and Development Center, and YWCA. The group of partners is expected to expand in the future.

“The Remake Learning Council is so pleased to partner with our regional leaders in STEM learning who are dedicated to work together to ensure our region is among the top in the country preparing all children for a future that requires deeper knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math,” said Anne Sekula, director of The Remake Learning Council. “This initiative will allow us to develop a regional strategy to address the gaps in access to effective STEM education, as well as the pathways that support youth and families to find learning opportunities that lead to successful careers or continued education after high school. We will be able to incorporate best-practice strategies from experts and peers around the country, as well as share how Southwestern Pennsylvania is a leader in this space.”
“Our region is well positioned to improve STEM education even further,” said Ann Metzger, co-director of Carnegie Science Center. "We already have a strong track record of collaboration and commitment. Through this new coalition, the Pittsburgh Regional STEM Ecosystem will encompass the efforts of so many organizations focused on improving our region’s STEM education. We are now even better positioned to work together as a team to provide families and schools with valuable STEM education resources and to ensure that our region’s children are prepared for jobs of the future.”

The 27 communities comprising the initial cohort of a national Community of Practice have demonstrated cross-sector collaborations to deliver rigorous, effective pre-K-16 instruction in STEM learning in schools and beyond the classroom—in afterschool and summer programs, at home, in science centers, libraries and other places both virtual and physical—that sparks young people’s engagement, develops their knowledge, strengthens their persistence and nurtures their sense of identity and belonging in the STEM disciplines. As these STEM Ecosystems evolve, a student will be able to connect what they learn in and out of school with real-world learning opportunities, leading to STEM related careers and opportunities.

“These innovative communities are providing STEM learning opportunities for millions of young people both in- and out-of-school,” said SFN co-chairs Gerald Solomon, executive director, Samueli Foundation, and Ron Ottinger, executive director, Noyce Foundation. “It is an initiative to design the kind of infrastructure that ensures that STEM learning is truly ‘everywhere’ and is a top priority for communities supporting youth to develop the skills and knowledge they need for success in a global workforce.”

Launched in Denver at the Clinton Global Initiative, the STEM Funders Network STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative will form a national Community of Practice with expert coaching and support from leaders such as superintendents, scientists, industry and others. The first gathering of this Community of Practice will be hosted at the White House in November.

The following is the complete list of sites selected from an invited pool of 70+ applicants to join the STEM Ecosystems Initiative’s first cohort creating a STEM Community of Practice:

- Arizona SciTech Ecosystem (Phoenix, AZ)
- Bay Area STEM Ecosystem (San Jose, CA)
- BoSTEM (Boston, MA)
- Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative (Chicago, IL)
• Colorado STEM (Denver, CO)
• East Syracuse Minoa Central School District STEM Learning Ecosystem (East Syracuse, NY)
• ecosySTEM KC (Kansas City, MO)
• Great Lakes Bay Regional STEM Initiative (Freeland, MI)
• Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem (Austin, TX)
• Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (Cincinnati, OH)
• Indiana STEM Ecosystem Initiative (Indianapolis, IN)
• Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership in Western New York (Buffalo, NY)
• Learning Ecology Network of STEM in Evanston (Evanston, IL)
• Los Angeles Regional STEM Hub (Los Angeles, CA)
• NC STEM Ecosystem: Driving the Future (Research Triangle Park, NC)
• Northeast Ohio STEM Learning Ecosystem (Cleveland, OH)
• NYC STEM Education Network (New York, NY)
• Orange County STEM Initiative (Corona Del Mar, CA)
• Oregon’s Statewide Regional STEM Hub Network (Salem, OR)
• Pittsburgh Regional STEM Ecosystem (Pittsburgh, PA)
• Providence After School Alliance (PASA) AfterZone STEM – FUSE Initiative (Providence, RI)
• Queens 2020 (Corona, NY)
• San Diego EcosySTEM (San Diego, CA)
• STEMcitePHL Regional Network (Conshohocken, PA)
• Tampa Bay STEM Network (Tampa, FL)
• Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (Tulsa, OK)
• Ventura County STEM Regional Network (Learning Ecosystem, Camarillo, CA)

Learn more about the initiative at stemecosystems.org. For more information, please contact info@stemecosystems.org.

About the STEM Funders Network
The SFN was formed in 2011 by a small group of funders from the Grant Makers for Education community to focus attention and better coordinate funding in support of robust STEM programs across the country. The SFN members fund individually as well as collectively and their work has supported the adoption and implementation of NGSS in all 50 states as well as dozens of STEM programs of promise.

Ecosystem funding members of the STEM Funders Network include: Samueli Foundation, Noyce Foundation, Overdeck Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation, and Simons Foundation with support by Amgen Foundation, Broadcom Foundation, KDK Foundation, Pinkerton Foundation and Tiger Woods Foundation.
About Carnegie Science Center
Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs. The mission of Carnegie Science Center’s Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development is to inspire more young people to consider and pursue careers in STEM fields, and to cultivate a STEM-literate community.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
Founded by Andrew Carnegie 120 years ago, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach more than 1.3 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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