

Inspiring youth to explore career pathways in the world of STEM



What is the STEM Career Connections project?

Our goal for the STEM Career Connections project is to develop an innovative career readiness model for both in and out of school settings that will profoundly increase the knowledge of, and interest in, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and computing careers for middle school youth within Eagle County, Colorado, who are often underserved in STEM fields.

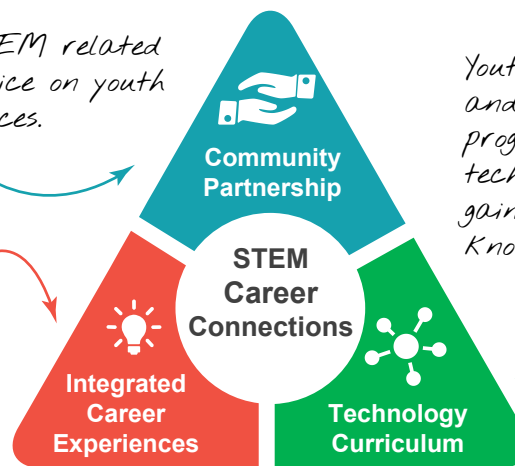
To achieve this goal, we have **three integral components** of the project:

- a **community partnership** working together to support youth engagement in STEM and computing career pathways
- a STEM curriculum where **youth use advanced technologies** (such as 3D printers or programmable sensors) to engage in science and engineering investigations
- **integrated career experiences** that encourage youth to make personally-relevant connections with local STEM and computing occupations

Local community members with STEM related careers meet with youth, offer advice on youth projects, and share career experiences.

Youth in afterschool clubs and summer camps investigate programmable sensor technologies and 3D printers, gaining STEM skills and knowledge throughout the unit.

Youth explore career pathways and opportunities that are integrated into the curriculum using existing career readiness materials (such as Naviance) in collaboration with Eagle Valley school counselors.



During this three-year research project, **we will investigate the following questions:**

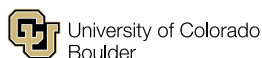
1. What tools and practices enable a community partnership to support youth exploration of locally relevant STEM and computing pathways?
2. What learning experiences enable middle school youth to create personally relevant connections with STEM and computing careers?
3. To what extent does STEM Career Connections stimulate youth interest and learning in STEM and computing careers?



If you have additional questions about the project, please contact:

John Ristvey (jristvey@ucar.edu), Tammy Sumner (tamara.sumner@colorado.edu), or Quentin Bidy (Quentin.Bidy@colorado.edu).

Project Collaborators:



This material is based on the work supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) under award # DRL-1949322. Any opinions, findings, or conclusions expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.