

The Future Needs a PUSH

The STEM Pathways for Underrepresented Students to Higher Education (PUSH) Network, an NSF INCLUDES Alliance, seeks to leverage the power of precollege STEM programs (PCSPs) to broaden participation of racially/ethnically minoritized students - Black, Latinx and/or Indigenous students - in STEM and, together with its partners, create systemic change in higher education admissions.

Join us to amplify the power of PCSPs and reinvent the relationship between PCSPs and higher education admissions offices!



The STEM PUSH Network, an NSF INCLUDES Alliance, seeks partners in advancing equity in STEM

STEM PUSH integrates a powerful engine for learning and innovation – a networked improvement community (NIC) – with an accreditation component to give PCSPs greater currency in the higher education admissions process. **Partners in STEM PUSH benefit from:**

A Vibrant Network

Change-makers, educators, and practitioners learning, innovating, and working together to break down barriers to quality STEM education and careers for Black, Latinx and/or Indigenous students

NSF Connection

Affiliation with a National Science Foundation (NSF) INCLUDES Alliance Networked Improvement Community

Data & Metrics

Helpful for reporting to existing stakeholders, for development of new funding streams and program sustainability

Tested Tools

Best-practices for pedagogy, recruitment, and persistence

Stipend

A stipend of \$7,000 per year for the duration of the NSF Alliance award to help offset the time investment

College Access Network

National College Access Network membership for the life of the grant to explore resources and opportunities (\$250 annual value)





STEM PUSH is looking for established, urban-based, STEM-focused PCSPs with a significant "do" component that work with high school students and are committed to increasing equity in STEM undergraduate study.

Does Your PCSP Meet the Criteria?

- Engages urban high school students in rigorous, STEM-centric curricula
- In-depth engagement in an out-of-school space (~120 student hours/year).
- Explicitly works to improve STEM-college going outcomes for Black, Latinx and/or Indigenous students
 - Program leaders acknowledge that structural racism exists in K-12+ STEM pathways
 - Program interested in focusing on equity
- Ability to actively participate in the networked improvement community
 - Dedicated program leader who will attend network meetings (monthly virtual + 2 in-person/year)
 - Engage in improvement cycles including meetings and learning tasks throughout the year (~40 hours/year)
 - Agency to make changes to strengthen the program/align with STEM PUSH quality standards (recruitment, program design, assessment, etc.)
 - Share student data
- Supports students in developing knowledge and skills via hands-on, experiential opportunities for learning (e.g., research-based, engineering projects, math intensive)
- Exposes young people to STEM professionals, career pathways, and/or college experiences
- Established for at least three years

"It's evident that we cannot do it alone. Especially when we're talking about a sensitive topic like inclusivity. Access, equity, diversity, inclusion is such a big topic that we can't do it in silos. So, being part of the network is good to reflect and understand what others are experiencing - similar communities coming from different backgrounds. We're still experiencing the same things. Then, with a communal voice, be able to speak to those changes that need to take place."

- Aaron Cortes, NEIU STEAM Pathways

PCSPs selected to partner with the STEM PUSH Network will join a networked improvement community (NIC).

The NIC uses improvement science to enable the PCSPs to strengthen their programming for racially and ethnically underrepresented groups and generate effective practices for implementation.

The PCSPs will then have the opportunity to apply for accreditation from Middle States Association, which - if granted - will give the PCSP greater stature in the college admissions process and expand access for Black, Latinx and/or Indigenous students.

For questions contact
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**Apply
Today!**



This NSF INCLUDES Alliance is funded by NSF Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (NSF INCLUDES), a comprehensive national initiative to enhance U.S. leadership in discoveries and innovations by focusing on diversity, inclusion and broadening participation in STEM at scale. It is also co-funded by the NSF Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program and the Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program (AISL).