California STEM Learning Network

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

Overview of CSLNet

Why is STEM So Important to California?

Many of the world's most innovative and valuable companies started and are located in California: Apple, Amgen, Genentech, Hewlett-Packard, Walt Disney, Google, Facebook and Twitter, to name a few. At their core, these companies are world leaders due to their ability to harness science, technology, engineering and math to drive innovation.

While California has nearly 900,000 STEM jobs, accounting for more than 13% of the nation's overall STEM-related workforce, the state has a crisis when it comes to preparing students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as evidenced by California's rankings on the Nation's Report Card (the National Assessment of Education Progress) that place it among the lowest five performing states in math and science proficiency. Simply put, our students are not graduating from public schools equipped and prepared to continue on to higher education STEM programs or to enter the STEM workforce.

Currently, despite an almost 11 percent unemployment rate, there are more job openings in STEM fields than qualified STEM job seekers.

> The number of STEM jobs is projected to grow by 19 percent over the next decade, nearly twice the rate of non-STEM jobs.

This gap must be closed if California is to retain its position as a world leader in STEM innovation, particularly in light of estimates that project the number of STEM jobs to grow by 19 percent over the next decade, nearly twice the rate of non-STEM jobs.

What is CSLNet's Vision?

CSLNet's vision is that all students in California have the knowledge and skills needed for success in education, work, and their daily lives. In particular, CSLNet is focused on those students who have historically been underserved, including women and students from groups underrepresented in STEM fields.

Established as a non-profit in July 2010, CSLNet addresses California's need for a statewide network to connect and build upon the state's many and diverse STEM assets. By aligning and focusing STEM efforts in the state around a common agenda, CSLNet aims to have statewide and national impact.

What are CSLNet's Mission and Goals?

CSLNet's mission is to help California prepare the nation's most STEM-capable graduates. In order to accomplish this, CSLNet has the following long-term goals:

I. Increase STEM interest, capabilities and engagement of all PK-14 students

II. Strengthen and expand access to STEM teaching and learning in schools, colleges and communities

III. Increase the number of students pursuing STEM-related credentials, degrees and careers

www.cslnet.org

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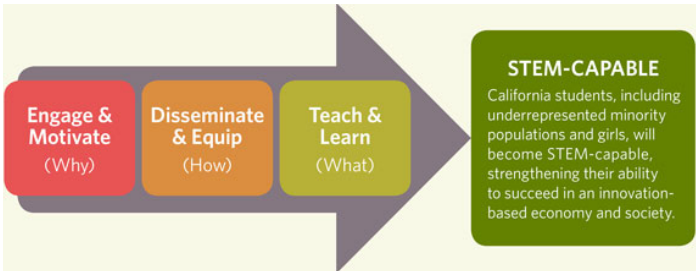
These goals are addressed through the following strategies and corresponding areas of work:

- **Strategy 1: Build public understanding and support** for STEM education through policy and advocacy, communications and outreach
- **Strategy 2: Build the field** through network development, statewide initiatives and meetings and convenings

Each strategy is a thread woven into CSLNet's **Theory of Change**, anchored by the introduction of Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. This theory is designed to foster the development of STEM-capable students:



How is CSLNet improving STEM outcomes in California?

CSLNet brings together leaders and stakeholders from K-12, higher education, business and industry, governmental agencies, science and technology, research, community-based organizations, science centers, and philanthropies. Through this cross-sector collaboration, CSLNet fosters innovation, and helps to scale and sustain effective STEM teaching and learning in and out of school time for all students.

CSLNet is also partnering with other state and national STEM networks to ensure all students have access to quality STEM learning.

Supporting Regional Networks
CSLNet is supporting the development, capacity building and collaboration among Regional Networks that engage students, teachers, business and industry partners and community partners to address regional needs in STEM education, mobilize local communities, and implement innovative and effective strategies.

CSLNet's Statewide Initiatives
Statewide Initiatives focus on addressing key barriers to STEM learning.

STEM Teacher Pathways. CSLNet is working with state and regional partners to strengthen post-secondary pathways and professional development opportunities to produce a highly skilled K-12 STEM

teaching workforce in California. CSLNet is also a partner in the nationwide 100Kin10 movement to address the need for STEM-trained teachers.

CSLNet's STEM Teacher Pathways initiative works hand-in-hand with The Power of Discovery: STEM² initiative by focusing on out-of-school time (OST) programs as a dynamic environment for teacher pathway programs and recognizes the potential of informal educators as a recruiting pool for future teachers of STEM.

The **Power of Discovery: STEM²** initiative is an important new effort to build the power of schools and community-based organizations to expand learning opportunities in STEM for young people in California. By building collaborative and effective partnerships between schools and after school organizations, and by mobilizing a broad coalition of community partners with STEM expertise and resources, the initiative will enhance school-based STEM instruction and expand out-of-school STEM learning opportunities. The California Afterschool Network (CAN), working in close alignment with CSLNet, will coordinate the work.

Advancing STEM Policy
CSLNet supports the development and implementation of policies that strengthen STEM education in California. A key area of focus for this work is educating key stakeholders in the state on the importance of STEM education and its positive impact for all students.

Your Part:

CSLNet encourages you to become a partner in this important work. Check out our website www.cslnet.org for resources and information about how you can become a STEM champion.

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