

ACF STEM Tiered Mentoring Project FAQ

1. What is the ENLIST (Engineering New Leadership in STEM Teaching) Project?

Answer: This ENLIST project identifies and enhances connections between K- 12 classroom teachers, STEM industry partners, and college students that build college and career readiness in STEM fields, populate the curriculum with lessons founded on industry products, practices and processes, and engage in community events that confirm partnerships and engage families.

2. What is the goal of the project?

Answer: This project aims to help our community connect and implement effective partnerships between businesses and schools to provide practical, project-based learning for students in classrooms. These community partnerships seek to build capacity in schools by preparing Arizona students for college and careers in STEM.

3. How is this project funded?

Answer: The Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) awarded Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) a three-year grant that helps fund this ENLIST Project. Rio Salado College is also providing in-kind contributions under its STEM initiative.

4. Who is managing the project?

Answer: This ACF grant program is managed by SFAz staff to ensure effective progress. The principal investigator for the central Arizona region is Dr. Rick Vaughn, Faculty Chair for STEM Initiatives at Rio Salado College. Participants in the STEM Mentoring Project will assist the PI and SFAz's management by completing evaluations during and after participation.

5. What is the project's current state?

Answer: The current investment is a year 2 of a pilot program to explore the most effective way to engage businesses and communities in STEM education.

6. How does this project support SFAz?

Answer: SFAz is a public-private partnership that serves as a catalyst for investments in research and education in Arizona while strengthening its economic future. The ENLIST Project is part of SFAz's effort to build the Arizona STEM network.

7. Why is this project important to student learning?

Answer: STEM education is critically important to the future of our children and is integral to our state's competitiveness in the 21st Century global economy. Strategic partnerships that support innovative approaches around STEM education such as this one are among the most effective investments we can make in securing that strong future by helping our schools incorporate STEM education into their curriculum.

8. What is the role of the STEM industry partner?

Answer: Industry partners are experts in the STEM companies that represent the economic base of the community. Each partner contributes resources that are unique to their mission and experience while providing mentoring to the college student and STEM business support for the school and teacher.