



North Carolina Girls STEM Collaborative (NCGSTEM) brings together organizations throughout North Carolina that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The collaborative lead for NCGSTEM is being housed at Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute. NCGSTEM facilitates connections between organizations, maximizing access to shared resources in North Carolina through collaboration. These connections can lead to greater access through the National Girls Collaborative Project, which has served 8.2 million girls through facilitating collaboration between 12,800 organizations.

The facilitation of exemplary collaboration modeled and practiced in the NGCP will increase and support the efforts of programs serving girls throughout North Carolina. The current leadership team for NCGSTEM includes members from Aspira Inc., PARI, Robeson Community College, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and the NC CAP. These members now have tools to serve and connect local girl-serving programs by holding events, awarding mini-grants, and increasing awareness of local resources through the program directory at <http://www.ngcproject.org/>. This rich resource already connects professionals across every sector including: K-12 educators, higher education faculty, informal education, industry and business leaders, community-based organizations, and government.



This team also has connections to training in research-based practices to provide professional development on increasing the knowledge of gender equitable educational practices, increasing the awareness of the role of early education in STEM workforce development, and introducing strategies for effectively reaching and serving under-represented girls.

North Carolina's need for a larger STEM workforce is discovered readily when considering the data from the 2011 Science Assessments and U.S. Census data:

- Only **26.5%** of residents hold a BA/BS degree or higher
- **16.1%** of residents are persons below the poverty level
- **26%** of 8th graders in North Carolina scored proficient or above on science performance on the NAEP

Achievement gaps among demographic groups even larger.

Too often programs that serve girls in STEM are limited in service and impact due to size, location, funding, expertise, and equipment. In other cases, projects compete with each other, duplicating services and seeking the same resources. The North Carolina Girls STEM Collaborative provides the opportunity for programs to increase their ability to maintain interest and participation of girls in STEM within North Carolina through collaboration.

The North Carolina Girls STEM Collaborative is based upon a model developed by the National Girls Collaborative Project, and replicated through a grant from the National Science Foundation. Project activities are designed to facilitate connections between organizations to maximize access to shared resources. Collaboration, as an interactive process, enables professionals across projects and communities to generate and carry out creative solutions and strategies that maximize benefit beyond what one project or community could accomplish. The model is structured to bring organizations together to leverage resources, share information and exemplary practices, and to plan strategically to expand STEM-related opportunities for girls. Opportunities for your participation as a Leadership Team member or Champions Board member are open now.



Collaborative activities are facilitated with the support of a Collaborative Leadership Team including:
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Jennifer Brown, Biology Instructor, Robeson Community College
Daniel Franklin Freeman, Ph.D., Chief Operations Officer, ASPIRA NC
Dr. Rita Fuller, Board Member, Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute
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