This session will be recorded and available for playback.

STEMxcelerator Pitch Competition

October 2025

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Welcome!

- Heather Sherman, Director, STEMx Network

- Leslie Vesha, Philanthropy Manager, Battelle
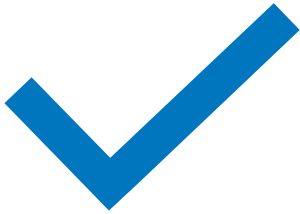
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About us

Battelle

- Mission-driven nonprofit advancing science and technology to solve society's toughest challenges.

- Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Work in health, environment, infrastructure, and national security.

- Deep commitment to STEM education— reaching over 1 million students annually through philanthropy and partnerships.

STEMx Network

- National network of state STEM organizations, educators, nonprofits, and advocates.

- Focused on expanding access to high-quality STEM education.

- Facilitates collaboration, professional development, and policy advocacy to scale effective STEM practices nationwide.

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Agenda for today

Review RFP and schedule

Provide guidance for proposers

Answer questions about the RFP process and pitch competition

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STEMxcelerator Overview

- Funded by Battelle

- Two $25,000 grants for K–12 STEM education solutions

- Hosted at STEM Innovation Forum, Columbus, OH

- Four finalists will their ideas live on Nov 18, 2025 at the Forum

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Program Objectives

Battelle seeks to fund programs designed to accelerate innovative practices that:

- Strengthen STEM workforce readiness through career exploration, mentorship, work-based learning, or career pathway development.

- Expand access to high-quality STEM experiences for K–12 students.

- Introduce or scale innovative learning models that foster STEM identity, collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving.

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Timeline

- Oct 12 – Proposals Due

- Nov 7 – Finalists Notified

- Nov 17 – Pitch Rehearsal

- Nov 18 – Live Pitch & Winner Announcement

- Post-award, grantees will complete a Student Impact Report

  - Reporting period: October 1, 2025 – September 1, 2026

  - Report opens: July 31, 2026

  - Report due: August 14, 2026

Proposal Requirements

- U.S.-based 501(c)(3) and 170(c) organizations

- One proposal per organization

- Must include a partner from: higher education institution, industry, or community organization

- Letter of commitment required from named partner(s)

- 20% in-kind match required by applying organization

- At least one representative from the applying organization must be registered for the STEM Forum at the time of submission

Proposal Narrative Sections

A. Program Summary (500 characters)

B. Program Description (4,000 characters)

C. Innovation & Access (2,500 characters)

D. Timeline & Location (4,000 characters)

E. Measurable Outcomes (2,500 characters)

F. Partnership Strength (2,500 characters)

G. Student Impact (4,000 characters)

H. Funding Request (≤ $25,000; indirect ≤ 10%)

I. Budget Narrative (2,500 characters)

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Required Attachments

- Budget Template: http://tiny.cc/stemxbudget

- IRS Determination Letter (501(c)(3) organizations)

  - 170(c) organizations can submit IRS Governmental Information Letter or a W-9 and NCES District ID

- Letters of Commitment from partnering organization(s) named in the proposal

- *Optional: Up to 3 pages of supporting materials*

Evaluation Criteria

- **Innovation and access** – unique and engaging approach aligned to program objectives (20%)

- Feasibility and timeline – detailed plan from development to implementation (10%)

- Measurable outcomes – at least two quantifiable goals and evaluation methods to measure those goals (10%)

- **Strength of partnerships** – strong collaboration, clearly defined roles (20%)

- **Student impact** – defined participants, anticipated number of students served, recruitment strategy (20%)

- Budget – $25,000 or less, indirect not to exceed 10%, detailed in-kind match (10%)

Submission Info

- Submit via Typeform: https://form.typeform.com/to/HtjQ9wjp

  - Once you begin the application in the Typeform portal, you will not be able to save and return to it later. We recommend drafting your proposal in a Word document first.*

- Email philanthropy@battelle.org with questions

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Q&A

- Questions from attendees
- Clarifications on proposal requirements
- Submission process and deadlines

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