

MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of the CSU STEM Center is to facilitate collaboration and coordination among Colorado State University's science, engineering, mathematics departments, and the teacher preparation and development programs. To do so, the CSU STEM Center supports and collaborates with faculty, staff, and students who focus on STEM research and education and serves as an organizing point for large-scale projects on campus. The goals of the Center are three-fold: 1) to facilitate or collaborate on STEM education-based program, research, or evaluation grants on and off campus; 2) to host a clearinghouse in the form of the CSU STEM Center website for on and off campus STEM education-based projects; and 3) to serve as a liaison between CSU and off-campus organizations for PK-20 STEM education.

Goal 1: Facilitate and collaborate on PK-20 STEM education-based program, research, or evaluation grants on and off campus

The CSU STEM Center will assist and collaborate with faculty involved with STEM education-based research and programming designing and carrying out research or evaluation as appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, contributing to the intellectual merit of STEM education-based research proposals, developing and carrying out research plans, developing research questions, mentoring undergraduate and graduate students participating in research through funded proposals, and connecting with faculty across campus to bolster STEM education-based research proposals. In the case of program evaluation, the CSU STEM Center will develop evaluation plans and serve as internal evaluator for CSU faculty and staff as funding allows. The CSU STEM Center will also serve as external evaluator for STEM-education related projects funded to other universities and off-campus organizations. If CSU faculty and staff need an external evaluator, the CSU STEM Center will make every effort to connect them with reputable outside evaluators.

Goal 2: Host a clearinghouse in the form of the CSU STEM Center website for on and off campus STEM education-based projects

The CSU STEM Center will coordinate campus-wide STEM education-related activities through a website that will house information on active projects and faculty engaged in STEM education-related projects. This includes enabling users to search using specific terms, providing information to users who may be interested in participation or collaboration, highlighting faculty engaged in STEM education-related activities for the purpose of fostering collaboration within and outside CSU, and highlighting the contributions of individual colleges to STEM education and outreach research and programming.

Goal 3: Serve as a PK-20 STEM education liaison between CSU and off-campus organizations

The CSU STEM Center will serve as an entry point for questions concerning STEM education-related initiatives and activities, prospective collaboration within and outside of the CSU, and possible participation in STEM-education related activities on campus. In addition, the CSU STEM Center will represent CSU at the local and state levels in activities concerning STEM education and outreach.