



## The Iowa Million Girls Moonshot Minute

February 2020

*Welcome to the Iowa Million Girls Moonshot Minute! This new, monthly publication from the Iowa Afterschool Alliance provides dozens of STEM out-of-school time professional development opportunities and activities to strengthen the quality of programs across the state. We hope that you find these resources valuable! Learn more about the national Million Girls Moonshot movement [here](#).*

## Iowa STEM Resources and Trainings

### Professional Development

#### How to Incorporate a Peer Role Modeling Component for your STEM Program

Wednesday, February 17, 9:00-10:00 am

Presenter: Jessica Schellhorn, Blank Park Zoo

#### [REGISTER FOR WEBINAR](#)

Incorporating a peer role model component can boost the quality of your STEM program by encouraging youth, fostering teamwork, and developing leadership skills. Join the Iowa Afterschool Alliance and the Blank Park Zoo as we share our success stories and learn tips and tricks to getting your own program started.

#### 2021-2022 STEM Scale-Up Programs

##### What is the Iowa STEM Scale-Up program?

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council selects some of the state's and nation's high-quality programs and offers their professional development/training and materials to Iowa school and out-of-school time educators through the STEM Scale-Up Program. Each year, the STEM Council equips thousands of educators with STEM programs that inspire nearly 100,000 Iowa youth.

##### Who can apply?

One of the priorities of the STEM Council is to achieve STEM for All! That means, any formal or informal Iowa educator serving preK-12 youth is eligible to apply (private and public school

teachers, librarians, after school club staff, museum staff, homeschools, 4H staff, childcare staff, etc). The STEM Scale-Up Program application is open to educators or administrators applying on behalf of educators through **March 5, 2021**.

Click [here](#) to read more about the featured STEM programs.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the application process.

---

## Million Girls Moonshot Resources

### Featured Webinars

#### Quality Trainings with PEAR

As an implementation partner for the Million Girls Moonshot Initiative, PEAR is thrilled to offer a three-part training series to all state networks and participating programs at no cost!



PEAR invites program staff and coordinators to leverage the free Dimensions of Success (DoS) Program Planning Tool (PPT) during these guided, interactive sessions focused on creating authentic plans to support quality programming and maximize positive outcomes for youth and educators.

**PART I: Understanding Quality STEM Learning: Empowering Networks and Programs**  
February 23rd, 2:00pm - 3:00pm CST (Deadline to Register: February 19th)

**REGISTER FOR WEBINAR**

#### Learning Goals:

- Map the implementation of quality STEM programming practices and positive youth development by reflecting on current activities/programs
- Examine how STEM and social emotional development (SED) are interconnected and how the DoS tools/framework can support programs in elevating both

**PART II: Imagining & Planning for Quality: Exploring Goals to Guide Our Work**  
March 11th, 2:00pm - 3:00pm CST (Deadline to Register: March 8th)

**REGISTER FOR WEBINAR**

#### Learning Goals:

- Reflect on areas of SED and STEM that are traditionally strong or challenging for programs nationally and for your program/network specifically
- Create a vision and generate goals for strengthening STEM and SED in programming using the DoS framework and tools as a guide.

**PART III: Creating Change: Leveraging DoS Toward Continuous Growth**  
March 30th, 2:00pm - 3:00 pm CST (Deadline to Register: Friday March 26th)

**REGISTER FOR WEBINAR**

#### Learning Goals:

- Learn how to use the freely available DoS planning tool and related data collection tools to grow and strengthen programming
- Discuss how to sustainability leverage data and planning resources to continue strengthening STEM and SED in your program/network

### Best Practice and Professional Development

#### For STEM Partners

- **Podcast: STEM Role Models** - In this podcast, educators, CEOs, and students discuss why STEM role models from all walks of life are essential for young peoples' persistence and success in STEM.
- **Guide: For Educators and Parents to Help Close the Gender Gap in STEM** - Microsoft commissioned a survey of over 6,000 girls and young women and conducted interviews with non profit leaders. They compiled the findings in the [online report](#) — and here present a guide for teachers, parents, and education leaders. One critical

strategy for success in STEM is providing role models for youth. Read more about why and how to engage role models in programs and at home.

- **Toolkit: Creating Connections with Role Models: The Power of Collaboration** - Designed by Techbridge Girls in collaboration with the National Girls Collaborative Project, this guide is designed to help Networks and programs understand why role models are critical to closing the gender gap in STEM. This “recipe for success” describes how programs can: incorporate role models into STEM programs, find role models, and train role models to work with youth.
- **Blog: Mentor Challenge: What’s One Thing You Can Do to Make Lasting Impact?** In this blog, Dr. Linda Kekelis, Founder of **Techbridge Girls**, describes five ideas for mentors to help youth build social capital for thriving futures. From making social capital as important as career guidance to connecting youth with other mentoring opportunities, Dr. Kekelis provides thoughtful ways to decrease the divide between youth and resourced networks.

### For Programs and Providers

- **Webpage: Role Models Matter and Mentoring Works! - The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity** believes that one of the most effective ways to encourage students to consider nontraditional careers is to introduce them to diverse role models, particularly role models. This webpage serves as a resource for educators seeking STEM role models and mentors for their students.
- **Videos: Role Model Profiles Video Archives SciGirls CONNECT** - Incorporating videos from diverse STEM role models into your afterschool program is a quick way to expose students to role models. Pair your engineering activity with a video from Rachel Gitajn, a bicycle engineer, or Tejal Desai, a biomedical engineer, so students can begin making connections between afterschool, the real-world, and career.
- **Posters: STEM Role Models Posters — In 7 Additional Languages** - Download inspirational, diverse STEM Role Models posters for your school or afterschool program — now in 8 additional languages including Chinese, Spanish, and French.
- **Stories: Stories | She Can STEM. So Can You.** - Meet the women and girls of STEM. They build robots, find new sources of energy, study animals, play with slime, and invent apps. They help make the world a better (and cooler) place to be. Each story will give your students a sneak peek into how they got their start in STEM and help them begin their journey too!

### Together at Home – Activities for Youth and Families

- **Student Activities: Girlstart STEM at Home** was created by Girlstart to empower families and communities in STEM. Find free Girlstart curriculum, STEM resources, effective messaging tips, collaboration opportunities. Join the Girlstart newsletter and receive updated information on other online resources.
- **Student Activities: EngineerGirl Try This! Design Challenges** are hands-on activities using common household items. Challenges include: design a mini catapult, paper airplane, and sorting machine.

### Mizzen by Mott App

Mizzen By Mott inspires, engages and sparks learning in young people. Supported by the Mott Foundation, Mizzen is available at no cost to afterschool professionals! Please be sure to download the Mizzen By Mott app to access the activities below.

- Mizzen - Design a Crew Module
- Mizzen - Build An Extension Arm
- Mizzen - Build Your Own Roller Coaster

### Additional Virtual Professional Development

- **Girl STEAM Ahead with NASA Free Resources** - This 'Exemplary Practices using 'Girls STEAM Ahead with NASA' Free Resources' recorded webinar will explore the free NASA resources, along with accompanying exemplary practices. In addition to the content, there will be time for questions and comments in order for the NASA's

Universe of Learning team to best support your program efforts with the Girls STEAM Ahead with NASA materials.

- **Gender Equity in Online Learning** - When engaging girls in STEM there are many strategies and practices that support gender equity and access, but how do those strategies work in online or hybrid learning environments? This webinar will explore what works for girls from preschool and early elementary to middle school and high school, potential adaptations, and new ideas to consider when teaching girls STEM online.

---

*This work of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance is made possible by funding from STEM Next and the Million Girls Moonshot Innovator Grant. The mission of MGM is to expand STEM opportunities, specifically in the field of Engineering, for girls across the United States, which is made possible through state partnerships.*



Million Girls Moonshot | [www.stemforiowa.org](http://www.stemforiowa.org) | [bsamuelson@sppg.com](mailto:bsamuelson@sppg.com)