



BEC *STEM Connect*™

Community Partners Improving Student Attitudes toward Math and Science



The *STEM Connect* Initiative establishes and nurtures vital partnerships between community sponsors and neighborhood, underserved schools. Our goal is to open a world of exciting and rewarding STEM (science technology engineering math) related careers to students significantly underrepresented in those professions.

Sparking interest early in science and math is key to providing students with the tools they need to be STEM professionals. *STEM Connect* targets 4th and 5th grade classrooms where research shows that student interest in math and science begins to decline. Student attitude and interest are the gateway to achievement. Students engaged in math and science take more advanced courses and are more likely to pursue STEM majors.

Community partners, schools and the BEC work together to increase student attitudes through:

Community Partners	BEC	Schools
Engage your <i>STEM Connect</i> classrooms through four connections	Support community partners through volunteer training including specific grade-level activities	Designate a teacher liaison for BEC contact
Get to know your classroom	Connect volunteers to teachers and classrooms	Meet with BEC staff to discuss school demographics and needs
Work with BEC to schedule volunteer training	Provide program support and facilitate relationships between community partners and STEM Connect schools	Attend <i>STEM Connect</i> school orientation
Attend on-site volunteer training at your organization	Conduct program evaluation	Communicate with community partners and volunteers
Participate in program evaluation		Participate in program evaluation

Questions? Please contact:

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Why target underserved 4th and 5th grade classrooms?

- ▶ Underserved students have less access and exposure to science related education
- ▶ Research shows that negative interest in STEM begins in elementary school
- ▶ When students experience STEM in meaningful ways, it can impact their decision to pursue STEM in the future



BESThq-Fortis Construction at Barnes Elementary

STEM Connect community partner connections—examples

Consider these recommended connections and contact the BEC to explore possible variations that will work for your organization.

Connection 1	Connection 2	Connection 3	Connection 4
Introduce your team to students! Engage in 30 minutes of introductions and Q & A.	Visit your <i>STEM Connect</i> classroom and engage students in a specific grade-level activity.	Decide on a follow up activity to reinforce the concepts you introduced in the classroom. You are encouraged to do an activity that represents your industry!	Engage the school community of your <i>STEM Connect</i> school by attending a back-to-school night or another community engagement activity that works for you and your partner school.

STEM Connect 2015-16 Partners	Businesses	Schools
	Acumed	McKinley Elementary
	BESThq/ Fortis Construction	Barnes Elementary
	Black & Veatch	Durham Elementary
	Columbia Sportswear	Reedville Elementary
	Cinder Staffing	Free Orchards Elementary
	Daimler Trucks North America	Peninsula Elementary Rosa Parks Elementary Bridgeport Elementary
	ESCO	Ockley Green Elementary
	Eaton Corporation	Tualatin Elementary
	FEI	Tobias Elementary
	First Tech Federal Credit Union	Metzger Elementary
	Glumac/ Oregon Dept. of Transportation	Boise-Eliot/ Humboldt Elementary
	IBM	Beaver Acres Elementary
	Oregon Department of Transportation	Four Corners Elementary
	Portland General Electric	Bridger Elementary
	Qorvo	McKinney Elementary
Vernier Software & Technology	Vose Elementary	



Columbia Sportswear at Reedville Elementary