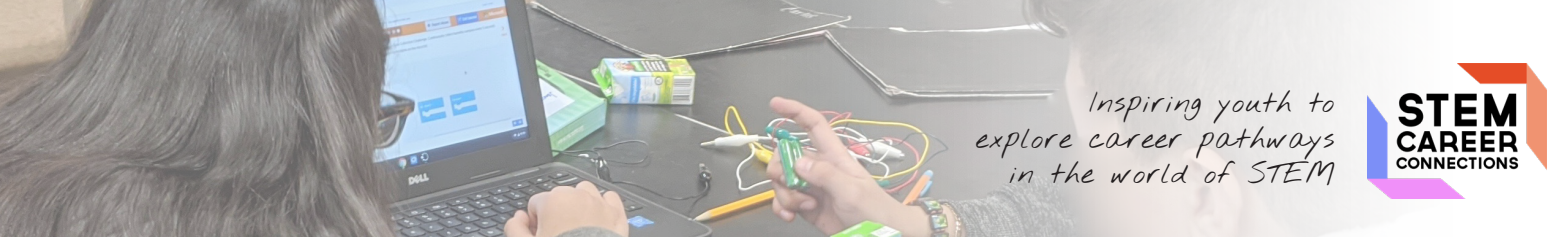

Tips for a successful STEM youth-mentoring program:

» Ask teachers, school administrators, and local youth organizations about STEM-related businesses and professionals they have worked with successfully in the past.

» When contacting potential mentor organizations or individuals, look for those who have community outreach as a part of their mission. Ask if there is someone at the organization responsible for coordinating those efforts.

» Discuss intentions and goals with your mentors, and incorporate them into the student-mentor experiences when possible. Emphasize that the mentoring experience should be mutually beneficial to the STEM mentor/organization *and* the students.

» Ensure that there are authentic reasons for students to engage with mentors - what unique skills or experience can they offer to students that will help them explore STEM more deeply?

» Be intentional about where student-mentor experiences intersect with your STEM curriculum - are the mentors there to introduce and engage the students around STEM, or is it better if students have already had some time exploring the curriculum before they meet with the mentors?

» A small mentor-student ratio is preferable. If possible, have each mentor meet with no more than 3-4 students at a time.

» Provide training and resources for your mentors - they are experts in their field but might lack experience engaging with youth.

» Check-in with mentors frequently and make adjustments to your programming as needed throughout implementation.

» Establish clear and consistent communication methods - they are busy professionals and want to feel well informed about expectations and how to be successful in your mentoring program. Have one person as the point of contact for your mentors, and send all communications through that person.

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