

Afterschool: Partners in STEM Education

 STEM afterschool participation **improves interest, skills** and **further pursuit** of STEM fields.

 Afterschool programs are a **cost effective** avenue to engage girls and minorities since they participate in afterschool programs in higher numbers than other groups.

 Research shows that early engagement and increased access to STEM learning opportunities lead to **greater STEM success** in school and in life.

"I came out of *FIRST* [Robotics] confident that math and physics are not limited fields; they are everywhere apparent and applicable in the real world."

-STEM afterschool participant (*FIRST* Robotics)

Afterschool programs are embracing STEM learning:

-  99% of afterschool programs believe it is important to offer STEM.
-  Of those programs that offer STEM, most spend 2 hours a week on STEM activities.

But only **half of afterschool programs offer STEM opportunities** and less than 1 in 5 households have children in out-of-school-time STEM programs.

This is a lost opportunity!

You can help more children experience hands-on STEM learning in afterschool by:

-  Increasing funding for afterschool STEM programs.
-  Enacting policies that include afterschool in STEM education agendas.
-  Providing supports to help afterschool programs offer more STEM opportunities.

Did you know?

Participating high school seniors in the Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program graduated at a 97% rate in 2009 compared to 73.4% nationally.