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Resources for high-quality, informal STEM programming | April 7, 2018

Apply for $1500 in STEM Program Funding!

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2018

AzCASE and Cox Communications invite Arizona out-of-school time programs to apply for a **2018 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) grant.** Programs are encouraged to work with staff and youth to develop creative, new ways to incorporate STEM into out-of-school time programming.

Grants ranging from $500 to $1,500 will be funded based on the quality and impact of the proposed projects.

Programs serving K-12 youth afterschool, before school, during summer and on school breaks are **eligible to apply**.

Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the STEM project concept
- Alignment with out-of-school time best practices
- Demographic reach of the project
- Clear budget that aligns with STEM project described

An extra point will be awarded to programs that have signed the **Make It Count Pledge**, and an extra two points will be awarded to programs that have submitted an assessment using the **Arizona Quality Standards Assessment Tool**.

Learn more & apply

CCS Presentation Systems Unveils Mobile STEM Lab

Headquartered in Scottsdale, CCS Presentation Systems recently launched the **CCS STEM Cart**, a mobile, all-in-one STEM cart that brings high-quality STEM learning to any educational environment. "Students can design and print 3D models, check

understanding through real-time formative assessments, play game-based activities, and much more."

Learn more

Building Blocks of STEM Act

Repost from Afterschool Snack

On February 13, the House of Representatives unanimously passed the "Building Blocks of STEM Act." The bipartisan legislation (H.R. 3397), sponsored by Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) and cosponsored by Rep. Steve Knight (R-Calif.), directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education research focused on early childhood (under the age of 11). H.R. 3397 also includes provisions championed by Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Comstock (R-Va.) that award grants to encourage young girls' participation in computer science, and updates the NSF Noyce Teacher Scholarship program to include informatics. This legislation, which combined a number of bipartisan STEM education bills, includes the "Girls Who Code Act" and instructs the National Science Foundation, (NSF) when awarding grants under the Discovery Research PreK-12 program, to consider age distribution in order to more equitably allocate funding for research studies with a focus on early childhood education. The bill also supports girls in STEM education and computer science by instructing NSF to accelerate research efforts to increase understanding of the factors that contribute to the participation of young girls in STEM activities. This includes research on effective teacher training and professional development. Among the allowable uses of research grant funds is investigating the role of informal and out-of-school STEM learning opportunities on girls' perception of and participation in STEM activities. According to the bill's authors, studies have found that children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science and are more likely to pursue STEM careers later. The legislation has the potential to build upon the momentum at the National Science Foundation behind a desire to better understand and support informal STEM education in settings like afterschool and summer learning programs. The bill now heads to the Senate, where it reportedly could move later this year.

Read the bill here