



CSU East Bay MESA Program Breaks New Ground with Historic STEM Accreditation Bid

The CSU East Bay (CSUEB) Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program is stepping into uncharted territory by seeking accreditation—an unprecedented move among out-of-school, after-school programs in the science domain.

For years, CSUEB MESA has offered an extensive range of resources, from dynamic classes to hands-on competitions, counseling, transfer support, and a nurturing community environment. Catering to students from middle school through college, the CSUEB MESA Center, guided by the Institute for STEM Education, has empowered thousands of educationally disadvantaged students, ensuring their proficiency in math and science while guiding them towards lucrative STEM degrees. Seizing the opportunity to further legitimize their efforts, CSUEB is now pushing the envelope by credentialing their Pre-College STEM Program through the prestigious STEM PUSH Network.

The STEM PUSH Network, spearheaded by The Broadening Equity in STEM Center (BE STEM) at the University of Pittsburgh, initially funded by the Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES program, is a national initiative committed to boosting U.S. leadership in discoveries and innovations through a focus on diversity, inclusion, and broadening participation in STEM. Co-funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program and the Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program, STEM PUSH serves as a comprehensive effort to elevate STEM education on a grand scale.

CSUEB's pursuit of accreditation is under the scrutiny of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools, promising a thorough evaluation to determine if the institution meets the rigorous standards. If successful, this accreditation will bestow a national standard status upon CSU East Bay MESA, aligning it with the STEM PUSH Network that spans across major cities such as New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Chicago. The ultimate goal is to inspire all network members to achieve accreditation, establishing a universal standard across the board. Starting in September, CSUEB's journey to accreditation has included a rigorous self-assessment, guided by the STEM PUSH Hub Team. Janiene Langford, MESA Director for both the CSUEB MESA University Program and the MESA College Prep Program, emphasizes the broader implications of this



**PLEASE
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CA STEM Network
Meeting February 6,
2024 @ 2:00 pm
[Register Here](#)



achievement. "This accreditation not only elevates the status of CSU East Bay MESA but will also significantly aid our students in their school applications. Importantly, it sets a precedent for other STEM pre-college prep programs nationwide."

If granted, the accreditation will last seven years, serving as a testament to college admissions that CSU East Bay MESA has undergone rigorous vetting and actively prepares students for higher education. Mandatory periodic check-ins will ensure accountability and continuous improvement, establishing a benchmark for other out-of-school STEM programs.

In an era where the demand for STEM education shapes the future, CSU East Bay MESA's pursuit of accreditation stands as a monumental achievement, elevating STEM programs nationwide and illuminating the path towards stringent standards. By setting this compelling precedent, CSU East Bay MESA reaffirms its commitment to shaping well-prepared STEM graduates capable of navigating the ever-evolving STEM field.

Are your students interested in space exploration and developing new technologies?

Check out this amazing Challenge for future astronauts and aspiring scientists.

The Space Station Technology Challenge is a science challenge that gives students the opportunity to learn about the International Space Station, the technologies used to operate the space station, and future space stations that are in progress. During the Challenge, students gain experience with experimental design, learn about technology applications aboard the station and the developing industry that drives it, plus explore space while utilizing their science, math, technology, language arts, and interpersonal skills.

Winners will even have the chance to showcase their results to a panel of ISS National Lab scientists, program executives, and other industry professionals!

For more information about the Challenge – or to register! – visit [the Space Station Technology Challenge website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS



[February 6:](#) CA STEM Network Monthly Meeting (registration required)

[February 9-10:](#) California STEAM Symposium – Long Beach – Use Discount Code: JOINME2



The January 16, 2024, meeting of the California STEM Network covered some key items in STEM education across the state. Jessica Sawko, the Statewide Director of the CA STEM Network, kicked off the session with an update on the current state of STEM education in California.

Children Now's recently released 2024 California Children's, which assigned the state a D in STEM Education, was shared. The Report Card's grade underscores the ongoing challenges faced by the education system in providing robust STEM opportunities for students.

Sawko also highlighted key elements of the Governor's 2024-25 State Budget proposal, particularly noteworthy is \$20 million one-time funding to support the implementation of the 2023 California Mathematics Curriculum Framework. This funding is earmarked to support a trainer-of-trainers model, where a single Local Education Agency (LEA) will collaborate with the California Math Project to provide training for other teachers. Additionally, there is a proposed \$7 million allocation for curriculum-embedded performance tasks in science.

In terms of the STEM Network's new plan to assess and enhance the network via outreach, Sawko informed the attendees that Left Bank Consulting plans to connect with members before the end of the month. Network members should be prepared to engage in conversations regarding the ongoing initiatives and developments in STEM education across the state.

Darin Gray, the Co-Director of the USC Viterbi K-12 STEM Center, shared insights from the [LA STEM Collective](#), announcing the hiring of an Ecosystem and Programs Manager. The ecosystem has received institutional funding from the Broad Foundation to enhance their support for STEM programs. Gray also highlighted the upcoming [City of STEM](#) event on April 6, emphasizing collaboration with Career and Technical Education (CTE) professionals to enrich programming.

Christina O'Guinn, the Sr. Director of Educational Partnerships at the Tech Interactive, shared exciting news about the Tech Interactive in downtown San Jose, emphasizing California's leadership in data science. Specialists from Hawaii are visiting to learn about data science connections to California's math framework. O'Guinn also invited participation in [The Tech Interactive's Teen Week](#), providing a [link for volunteering](#).

Mara Wold, the lead for the [Region 5 STEAM Ecosystem](#), discussed their engagement in the [Youth Climate Initiative](#). The focus is on amplifying student voice and leadership in climate action. She also celebrated the lack of cuts to expanded learning programs in the Governor's January budget proposal. Tasha Castañeda the Director of Development and Outreach with Greene Scholars spoke about the upcoming [Greene Scholars Program 22nd Annual Science Fair](#) (believed to be the largest Black student science fair in the country), scheduled for January 27 in San Jose. The event promises to be a celebration of young scientific talent, with an awards ceremony and open viewing sessions.

The meeting concluded with reminders and announcements, including the upcoming [STEAM Symposium on February 9th and 10th](#), as well as details about the [San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration event hosted by CASE and SD Park Rangers](#).

[Join us for the next CA STEM Network meeting](#), scheduled for February 6th to contribute to continued collaboration and progress in advancing STEM education across California.



Get Ready!

JOIN OUR WEBINAR
& OFFICE HOURS
FOR WORKSHOP
SUBMISSION SUPPORT!



CALL FOR PROPOSALS *Webinar Support*

Call for proposal submissions are now open! If you have ever thought about presenting, now is the time! Learn all about best practices for writing a successful proposal plus a look at the new rubric, and the do's and do-nots of proposal writing!

January 31, 2024
5:00pm–6:00pm

[ZOOM LINK](#)

CALL FOR PROPOSAL *Office Hours*



Support, feedback, and Q&A! This is what you'll get when you join one or both of our exclusive call for proposal office hours in February. Feel free to stop in and if you have any burning questions, fill out the registration form ahead of time.

February 20, 2024
5:00pm–

[ZOOM LINK](#)

February 26, 2024
6:00pm 5:00

[ZOOM LINK](#)

pm–6:00pm

Q&A REGISTRATION

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Learn about Artificial Intelligence Earn Credit (CEU) - 8th-12th Grade Educators

You're invited to an exciting professional development opportunity that may be a new venture for many of you. The Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM, [TIES](#), is proud to launch its Professional Development Institute (PDI) on Artificial Intelligence, and we would love for you to be a part of it.

Why This PDI?

Even if you haven't participated in our initiatives before, this PDI is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the evolving field of AI. Designed specifically for 8th to 12th grade educators, it aims to equip you with the latest tools and insights in AI, enhancing your teaching methodologies and enriching your students' learning experiences.



What is This Offer?

Dates: January 30th, February 13th, February 27th, March 5th

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM EST

Structure: Each session requires 1 hour of virtual learning, followed by approximately 1 hour of independent work (~8 hours in total to earn CEUs).

Flexibility: Can't make it to the live session? No worries! You can watch the recording at your convenience.

CEUs at No Cost: Here's the best part - the CEUs you earn through this program are absolutely free! (To earn the cost-free Continuing Education Units (CEUs), completion of activities for all sessions is mandatory).

We understand the value of continuous learning and professional growth in education. This free opportunity to earn CEUs while gaining valuable knowledge in AI is our way of contributing to your professional journey.

Feel free to share this information with your colleagues and peers who might be interested in this free learning opportunity.

Looking forward to seeing many new faces and fostering a community passionate about AI in education.

ADVOCATE PROGRAM



The Advocate Program is a year-long professional development program that supports educators and mentors who are working to increase the number of students from traditionally underrepresented groups who enter STEM research competitions.

Advocates receive:

- Training, staff support, and peer mentorship
- A \$3,000 stipend
- All-expense-paid trip to attend the Advocate Training Institute in Washington, D.C.

Applications are open from January – early March.

To learn more about the program, sign-up to be notified when the application opens, or to access the application check out our website.

SCAN HERE

