



SCIENCE FOR ALL
SUMMIT

2025 REPORT

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Science For All™

The Science for All Summit is a community convening to advance access and opportunity in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for people of all backgrounds and lived experiences.

The purpose of the Summit is to engage educators, practitioners, researchers, thought leaders, and other change agents in conversation and knowledge building around emerging issues and innovative strategies related to advancing access in STEM. Putting these ideals into practice requires an intentional focus on creating authentic and adaptive environments, while simultaneously cultivating a community that collaborates, innovates, and implements promising practices shown to effect sustainable change.

At the Summit, we provide opportunities to share new research findings, exchange resources, discuss strategies, and demonstrate effective practices and interventions.

The Summit was founded by Crystal Harden, EdD, in 2023. It is produced by Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.



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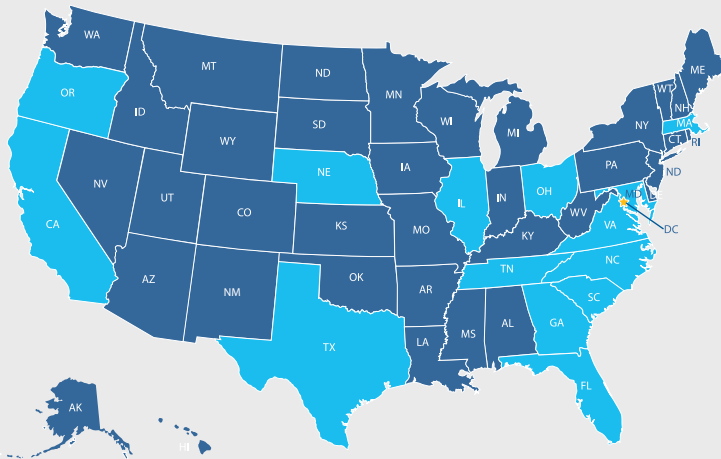
PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

Demographics

Please note, the following data is based on the rescheduled dates due to a winter storm that impacted our original dates.

15 Total States Represented

- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Nebraska
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- District of Columbia



Friday Center Participants

223 attendees/287 registrants

64 registrants requested CEUs (22%)

Networking Lunch

During the networking lunch, attendees sat at tables based on topics that resonated with them and engaged in guided conversations. Discussion topics included Women in STEM, STEM Outreach and Community Engagement, LGBTQ+ Representation in STEM, First-Generation College Students in STEM, and Underrepresented Populations in STEM.

Networking Restaurant Hop

- Buns
- It's a Southern Thing – Downtown Durham
- Luna Rotisserie and Empanadas
- Luna Rotisserie and Taproom
- Namu Korean Eats
- The Velvet Hippo Bar & Lounge

“

GREAT TIME! THIS WAS MY FIRST TIME HERE AT THE SUMMIT AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING TO MEET LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE AND LEARN ABOUT NEW COMMUNITIES!

- Fiona H., First Time Attendee

REGISTRANT ANALYTICS

The following is self-reported, optional data.
We received 200/223 responses, at 89.7% response rate.

Age Group

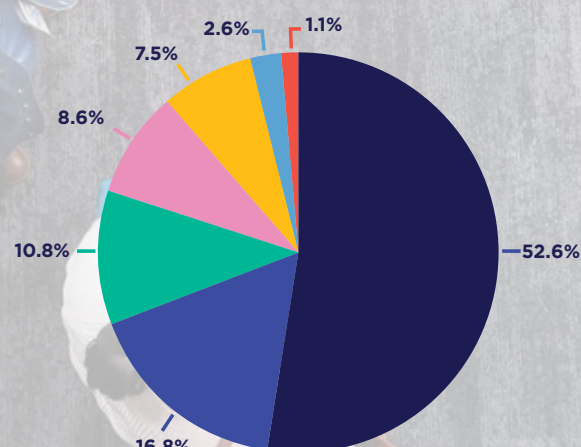
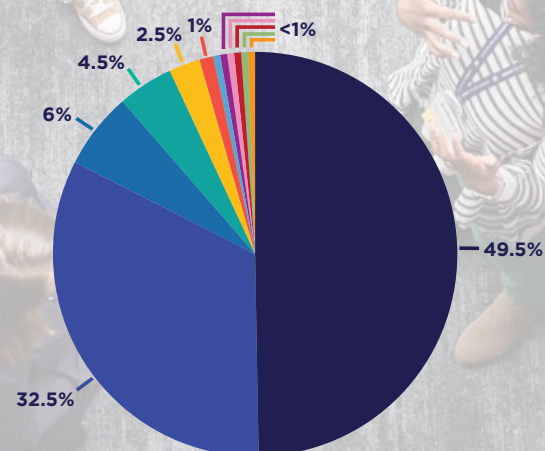
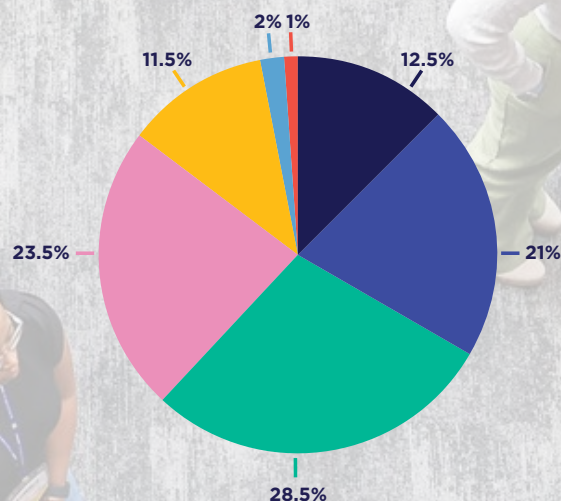
18-24	25	12.5%
25-34	42	21%
35-44	57	28.5%
45-54	47	23.5%
55-64	23	11.5%
65-74	4	2%
75 & older	2	1%

Race/Ethnicity

Asian	9	4.5%
Black/African American	65	32.5%
Biracial	2	1%
Charnouit Indian	1	<1%
Filipina	1	<1%
Hispanic/Latino	12	6%
Indigenous	5	2.5%
Mexican	1	<1%
Middle Eastern	1	<1%
Moonst	1	<1%
White	99	49.5%
White & Middle Eastern	1	<1%

Registrant Role

educator	141	52.6%
other	45	16.8%
student	29	10.8%
DEI leader	23	8.6%
researcher	20	7.5%
practitioner	7	2.6%
scientist	3	1.1%



ATTENDEE EVALUATION

Post Summit Survey

Overall, how would you rate the event?

79% of respondents rated the event as “Very Good”, while 21% gave a rating of “Excellent”

How effective do you believe this event was in bringing awareness to best practices and strategies for inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in STEM?

83% responded with “Very Effective”

Would you recommend the event to others?

100% of respondents would recommend the event to others

Which aspect of the event did you enjoy the most?

70.5% of respondents rated breakout and keynote sessions as the most enjoyable aspect

Which aspect of the event did you find most useful?

67.4% of respondents rated breakout and keynote sessions as the most useful aspect

How well organized was the event?

86% of respondents rated the event as “Extremely organized”

What do you think about the time allocated for each section?

86% of respondents felt the time was “Just what it should be”

How friendly and helpful was the staff at the event?

100% of respondents rated the staff as “Extremely” friendly and helpful

Would you be interested in participating in future training/events related to IDEA in STEM?

93% of respondents would be interested in participating in future training/events

What were the key takeaways from the event?

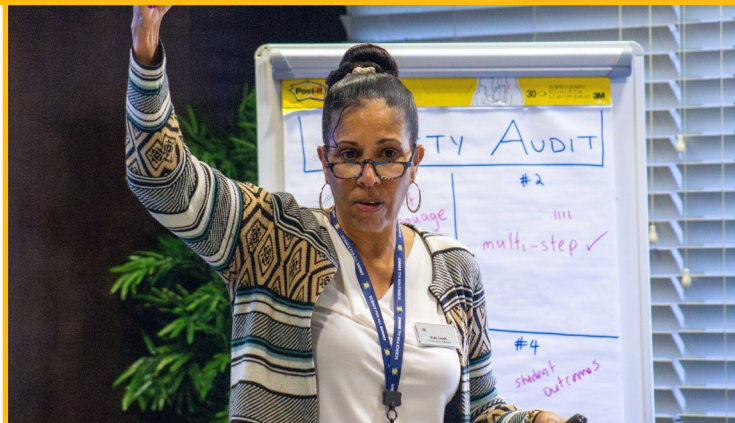
- “Advocacy and the importance of STEM.”
- “Community, resources, and ideas.”
- “Educators need to make intentional efforts to bring diversity to STEM.”
- “Talking about topics that are usually started away from.”
- “This effort is collective & I am not alone.”
- “The different ways that we can be not just culturally inclusive but culturally competent and strive for equity in many dimensions in STEM spaces.”
- “Not allowing the current political landscape to silence us.”
- “We need to keep fighting for inclusion in STEM, lived experiences can serve as indicators of change or stagnation.”
- “How to encourage STEM activities and ideas in my elementary school classroom.”
- “Everyone has to play their part in making everyone feel included and welcome in STEM classrooms and fields.”
- “There are many research that I will benefit [from] and apply to my class. There are also many strategies like integrating music, arts and so on.”
- “Utilizing creative ideas to capture youth interest in STEM.”
- “Full speed ahead with the work, in spite of worrisome changes at the fed level.”
- “A key takeaway is to not get discouraged as there are others doing the work. Our collective voice can make the difference.”
- “The keynote speakers and the workshops were great! So informative!”
- “Critical consciousness, culturally aware teaching and encouraging students to bring their full identities into the classroom.”
- “Inclusion in STEM.”
- “A network of people to help keep things moving forward.”



“

**BE AN ADVOCATE,
NOT JUST AN ALLY.
FIND COMMON
GROUND.
MAKE SPACE FOR
CONVERSATIONS
IN ALL ASPECTS OF
MY LIFE INCLUDING
TEACHING.
IMPROVE MY
CULTURAL
COMPETENCE.**

- Summit Attendee



KEYNOTE PROFILE

Dr. André Isaacs

Monday's keynote address came from Dr. Andre Isaacs, Associate Professor of Chemistry at the College of the Holy Cross.

Dr. Isaacs teaches courses and conducts research in Organic Chemistry. He is known for his use of social media, particularly TikTok, to reach a broader audience to educate and excite them about science. His presentation focused on inclusive pedagogy and recognizing historically excluded groups in scientific research. He began by relating his own personal and professional journey to the audience to show how STEM Creativity exists at the intersection of one's culture, education and interests.

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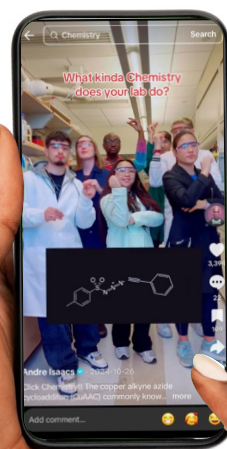
I WANTED THE AUDIENCE TO RECOGNIZE THERE IS STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY. SCIENCE IS BETTER WHEN THERE ARE MORE VOICES CONTRIBUTING TO THE QUESTIONS WE ASK.

- André Isaacs



"I wanted the audience to recognize there is strength in diversity. Science is better when there are more voices contributing to the questions we ask," says Isaacs. "I also wanted to share with the audience the importance of modifying our pedagogy as educators to invite others in, particularly those of historically marginalized communities whose voices are critical to the future of science."

Dr. Isaacs' keynote also addressed the use of digital media in relating to students. His message was clear: there is a psychological bias with each passing generation. Cries of "lazy", "entitled", and "difficult to work with" have been in the media for decades and Gen Z is no different. Through social media, Andre redefines the image of a scientist and uses contemporary cultural touch points (and humor) to stretch normative expectations in STEM environments.



His content makes STEM-related topics fun and accessible to his 800,000+ followers on TikTok and Instagram.

Dr. Isaacs stressed the importance of recognizing multiple interacting components of inclusive pedagogy. From teaching techniques to classroom culture, to instructor mindset, there are several factors that go into creating a welcoming space in STEM environments. He feels that events like Science For All Summit are crucial to sharing pedagogy, finding support and building connections with those who are invested in broadening participation in STEM. It's clear that his audience felt the same way.

“The attendees were immensely grateful for what I shared and asked great questions about how they can support students broadly, encourage authenticity in their scientific spaces and implement technologies that excite the younger generation of students.”

KEYNOTE PROFILE

Dr. Valencia Hicks-Harris

This year, guests were treated to a double keynote, featuring Dr. Crystal Harden, Director of Programs and Access Initiatives at Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, and Dr. Valencia Hicks-Harris, founder and CEO of Empower All. Dr. Hicks-Harris boasts over thirteen years of expertise in elementary and STEM education. **As one of the first two graduates in the Educational Equity Doctoral Program from NC State University**, she is a trailblazer in STEAM education. Her organization works to utilize STEAM to co-create spaces to empower youth to affirm their unique identity, grow in social-emotional learning, and explore entrepreneurship.

The duo's keynote highlighted the power of representation in shaping what's possible for young women who look like them in STEAM. Dr. Hicks-Harris challenged the idea that resilience is just about enduring—it's about transforming barriers into bridges for others. She states, “Our visibility must come with action, because if we've made it through, we have a responsibility to make space for those coming next.”

The discussion received a range of thoughtful responses—from in-person conversations to emails and messages on the event app. **Many attendees shared that they felt seen, affirmed, and deeply moved by the conversation**, and left feeling motivated to apply the tools and strategies shared to ensure their children have meaningful access to STEM opportunities.

Dr. Hicks-Harris feels that events like the Science For All Summit are essential because they bring together voices from all backgrounds and lived experiences to reimagine how opportunity in STEM can be expanded and sustained. “They create space for collaboration, innovation, and action—ensuring that inclusion in STEM moves beyond conversation and into meaningful, long-term change that serves every community.”



KEYNOTE PROFILE

Dr. Terrell Morton



In 1996, R&B group En Vogue asked, “What’s it gonna be?” in their hit song “*Don’t Let Go (Love)*”. Dr. Terrell Morton follows the example of the legendary girl group by asking the same question of STEM professionals and policymakers.

Dr. Morton is an alumnus of North Carolina A&T State University (B.S. Chemistry), University of Miami (MS Neuroscience), and UNC Chapel Hill (Ph.D. Education - Learning Sciences and Psychological Studies). He has developed expertise in race critical theories and human development, using these perspectives to study identity, decision-making processes, and STEM engagement for Black students.

In the keynote, Dr. Morton aimed to help the audience members see the need and urgency for making bold and courageous decisions rooted in liberatory frames as they work to advance Science For All through their research, teaching, programming, and service.

Such decisions, he suggests, should:

- **ethically honor, but not repeat** the violences and traumas that we have seen and continue to see happening against people from minoritized groups
- **produce a vision** that enables people to look beyond the immediate ordeals as a means to not only be reactive, but to be proactive
- **transcend bitterness** and embrace love and hope
- **build new possibilities, programs, and opportunities** with people and community as opposed to for them

These recommendations stem from the work of Drs. Katherine McKittrick, Robin D.G. Kelly, and Joyce King.

Dr. Morton also challenged the keynote audience to consider their roles (the powers and privileges) and help break the cycle of anti-Blackness in STEM. Dr. Morton believes that these events are necessary for the continued growth and development of the people and the field. “These spaces are also necessary for knowledge exchange, generation, and curation.”

PROFILE: CS SIDEKICKS

This year, Morehead presented its first mini grant to CS Sidekicks. This award, which totaled \$500 to promote access in STEM activities, also came with opportunities to lead workshops and sessions in other events.

Reagan Razon accepted the award on behalf of CS Sidekicks. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to empowering the next generation of computer scientists by bridging disparities

for historically underestimated and underserved students. The program offers students in grades 4-12 opportunities to learn foundational computer science concepts and build problem-solving skills in an online environment.

This mini grant will help fund an end-of-program celebration for the participating CS Sidekicks students and their families, as well as other students in the Durham Public Schools. Much of the funding will support STEM kits for participating students, containing materials for coding challenges, simple robotics tasks, and engineering design projects. These activities are tailored to a range of age levels and skill sets. These kits are important to the event's mission of fostering STEM engagement, as they will provide opportunities to explore and experiment beyond traditional learning methods.

"Through this grant," Reagan stated in her application, "we want to broaden the program's reach and impact by incorporating interactive STEM experiences that complement our CS curriculum."

CS Sidekicks will also take part in an IRB study on increasing computer science engagement and shifting student perspectives on STEM and CS. Razon plans to present findings from the study at the 2026 Science For All Summit.



PROFILE: DR. SARINA SATURN



STEM practitioners hold many identities. Dr. Sarina Saturn's workshop, titled "The Importance of Intersectional Equity and Advocacy to Support Scientific Identity Formation", conveyed the importance of intersectional equity and advocacy to support scientific identity formation and resilience. Dr. Saturn has a PhD in neuroscience and a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and chemistry. She was a professor for over ten years and also served as a community scientist.

Workshop attendees covered how to provide a forum for stories of resistance during this sociopolitical climate. They welcomed the conversation and were fully engaged in how critical this work is, given the sociopolitical climate in which DEI efforts in STEM are being terminated due to great success in broadening participation. The discussion also included the trauma, stress, and grief that DEI practitioners experience in their work and strategies to combat these negative emotions in order to rest and heal.

Dr. Saturn states, "Events like the Science For All Summit are important because, as someone who has multiple marginalized identities in STEM, I know how important it is to have these spaces that create a sense of belonging and a STEM identity. This work is more important than ever to support girls/women, BIPOC, and 2SLGBTQIA+ in the scientific enterprise."

STEERING COMMITTEE

We are grateful to the 20 individuals who volunteered their time to serve on the 2025 Steering Committee. The Science For All Summit continues to be a success thanks to your commitment and passionate efforts.

Ashley Boyette

Aftercare and Enrichment Manager,
Durham Jewish Community Center

Keyma Clark, Ed.D.

Personal and Professional Development Coach,
Wake Forest University

Eisha Clyde

Founder and Executive Director,
The HBCU STEMuS

Rene Daughtry

President/Founder, Aisymmetry

Linda Dion, NBCT

Program Coordinator,
Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership

Crystal Harden, Ed.D.

Director of Program and Access Initiatives,
Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

Trudie Henninger

Education Outreach Manager,
The North Carolina Arboretum

Jamie Lathan, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Extended Learning,
North Carolina School of Science
and Mathematics

Connie Locklear, Ed.D.

Director of Indian Education,
Public Schools of Robeson County

Alfred Mays

Chief Diversity Officer and Strategist,
Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Stephani Page, Ph.D.

Director of Strategic Initiatives, WEPAN –
Women in Engineering ProActive Network

Josmell Perez

Director,
Carolina Latinx Center

Keaundra Robinson

Equity Leadership and Strategy Coordinator,
Durham Public Schools

Davron Rorie M.Ed.

Access Initiatives Specialist,
Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

Torri Staton, Ph.D.

Director of Equitable Economic Development
and Vice President of Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion,
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

Mark Townley

Assistant Director of Programs,
Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership

Deanna Townsend-Smith, Ed.D.

Senior Director,
Dudley Flood Center for Educational Equity
& Opportunity

Megan Vinh, Ph.D.

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist, Frank
Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Adam El-Ramly

Senior,
Durham School of the Arts

Alina Azhar

Senior,
J.D. Clement Early College

INVESTORS

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 

Christy & Joel Shaffer

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NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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FOUNDATION
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Digital Brilliance Hour

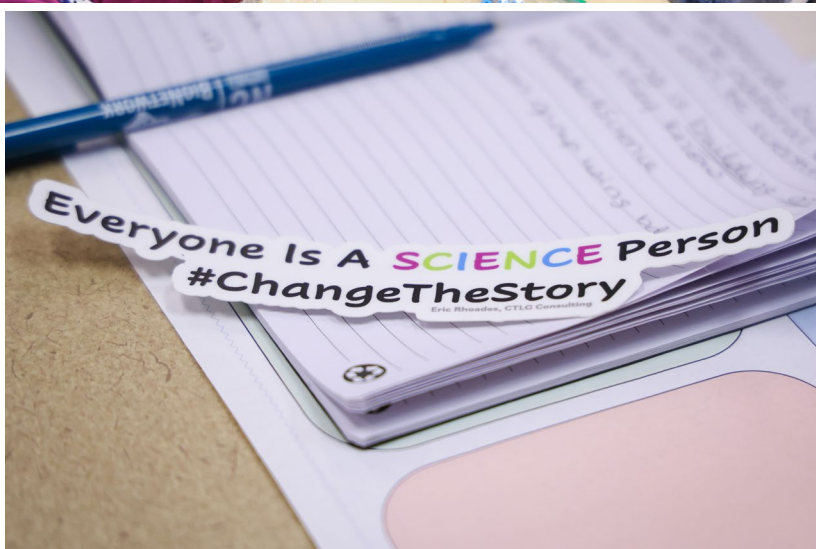
GREAT SMOKY
MOUNTAINS
INSTITUTE AT
TREMONT

“

WE ARE A
COMMITTED
AND RESILIENT
**COMMUNITY THAT
DRAWS STRENGTH
FROM DIVERSITY**
OF OUR INDIVIDUAL
IDENTITIES AND
OUR SHARED
STRUGGLE.

- Summit Attendee







SAVE THE DATE

February 19-20, 2026

Friday Conference Center

Chapel Hill, NC

We hope you will join us for the fourth annual Science For All Summit. The 2026 program will include keynote addresses by thought leaders and change agents of Indigenous heritage who you won't want to miss. Details coming soon!



Scan the QR code to join our mailing list and receive Summit news and updates, including notice when registration opens.



CONTACT INFO

Crystal Harden, EdD

Director of Program and Access Initiatives,
Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

charden@unc.edu

919-843-8496



THANK YOU

We sincerely appreciate everyone who participated in this year's Summit. Visit the link or scan the QR code to the right to view our 2025 Science For All Summit slideshow.



go.unc.edu/25SFAS

The 2025 Science For All Summit had amazing representation from 15 states around the US:

2nd Grade Teacher · 5th Grade Science Teacher · 6/7 Science Teacher · 8th Grade Science Teacher · 9-12 Coordinator, Science & STEM · Access Initiatives Specialist · Adjunct Associate Professor · After-school & Enrichment Manager · AIG Specialist · APM for Community Engagement · APM for School Programs · Area Specialized Agent - 4-H STEM · Assistant Curator of Museum Education · Assistant Director of Development · Assistant Director, Shared Materials Instrumentation Facility · Assistant Professor · Assistant Professor, Life Sciences · Associate Dean · Associate Dean of Technology · Associate Director · Associate Professor · Associate Professor of Chemistry · Associate Program Manager · Asst. Professor of Biology/Pre-Health Advisory Program Coordinator · Asst. Professor, Identity and Justice in STEM Education · AVID Teacher & Site Coordinator · Biology Professor · Career & Technical Education Instructional Coordinator (CIMC) and Career Development Coordinator (CDC) · Center for Energy Education (C4EE) · CEO · Chair of NC SciFest Advisory Board · Chancellor's Science Scholars Student · Chemistry Lead Instructor · Chief Development Officer · Chief Diversity Officer · Clinical Project Manager · Community Engagement and Evaluation Specialist · Community Engagement Intern · Community Engagement Manager · Community Engagement Specialist · Computer Engineering Student · Computer Science Educator · Consultant · Coordinator of Community Programs · Coordinator of Guest Services · Coordinator, Youth Camps & Community Programs · Corporate Health Program Researcher · Curriculum Development · Dental Public Health Director · Department Head, Life Sciences · Department Head, Physical Sciences · Development & Research Director · Development and Membership Coordinator · Digital Communications Specialist · Director · Director of Development · Director of Innovation and Design · Director of Program and Access Initiatives · Director of Programming · Director of Research · Director of Research & Evaluation · Director of STEM Education · Director of STEM Engagement and Outcomes · Director of Student Access and Services · Director: Climate Research and Engagement · Distinguished Fellow · District AIG & Secondary Science Coordinator · District Equity Facilitator · District Science Lead · DPS Outdoor Learning Specialist · ecoEXPLORE Specialist · Editor & IDEA leader · Education Consultant · Education Coordinator · Education Department Manager · Education Fellow · Education Specialist · Educator · Elementary Teacher · Environmental Education Associate · Environmental Educator and Systems Specialist · Equity Leadership & Strategy Coordinator · ESL Teacher · Evaluator · Executive Director · Exhibit Hall Experiences Coordinator · Experience Specialist, Youth Development · Founder · Founder STEM PLUG · Future Educator · FUTURES Alumni · FUTURES Lead Coordinator · Grad Student · Grant Specialist · Graphic Designer · Group Sales Coordinator · Head of NC Science Museums Grant Program · Health Care Education · Historic Interpreter · Intern @ UNCW CIE · International Educator · Interpretation and Education Specialist · Interpretive Programs Lead Coordinator · K-12 Science Education Manager · K-8 Science/STEM Coordinator · Lab Instructor · Laboratory Science Coordinator · Lead Facilitator · Leader of Engineering · Learner of Things · Magnet Program Coordinator · Manager, Camps & Birthdays · Manager, Youth Development · Managing Director of Programs, Strategic Initiatives, and Community Engagement · Managing Partner · Marketing & Comm. Manager · Marketing Director · Math Educator - Middle Grades · Math Instructor · Member and Donor Relations Coordinator · MS Teacher ELA/STREAM · NC 4-H State STEM Specialist · NCSSM Explore Program Director · OCS Science Coordinator · Online Science Teacher · Out of School Time Consultant · Outreach & Lab Engineer · Outreach Education Manager · Owner · PhD Student · PhD Student in Biology · PhD Student Researcher · Physical Science Specialist- Content and Experiences · Physical Science Teacher · Planning Committee Member · Postdoctoral Research Associate · Postdoctoral Scholar · Pre-K Blended Classroom Teacher · President · Principal Investigator/Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Officer · Professor · Program Associate · Program Coordinator · Program Coordinator of Accessibility · Program Coordinator of CSS · Program Manager · Programming Lead · Programs Director · Project EXPLORE Coordinator · Psychology Instructor · Public Health Analyst · Quality Assurance Director · Regional Lead · Research Assistant · Research Associate · Research Collaborator · Research Manager · Research Scientist · Retired Educator · Rural Medicine Pathway Program Co-Director · School and Interpretive Programs Manager · Schools in Parks Specialist · Science Education Specialist · Science Librarian · Science Specialist · Science teacher · Senior Curriculum Developer · Senior Director of STEM Outreach · Senior Education and Outreach Manager · Senior Program Officer · Senior Researcher · Senior Researcher & Director of Inclusive Communication and Capacity Development · Software Developer · Sr. Director · STEM Coordinator · STEM Outreach Coordinator · STEM Specialist · STEM Teacher · Student · Student Researcher · Student, Chancellor's Science Scholars · Teacher · Teacher Leader · Teaching Assistant Professor · Teen and Technology Library Associate · The Spanish Language Institute Manager · UNC Graduate Student Researcher · UNC WinSPIRE Undergraduate Olympiad Think Tank · Undergraduate Researcher · Undergraduate Student · Vice Chancellor for Extended Learning · Volunteer · WinSPIRE · WinSPIRE Think Tank Intern · Youth + Family Programs Lead Coordinator · Youth + Family Programs Manager · Youth Environmental Education Specialist · Youth Environmental Educator ·