



## ***St. Louis Regional STEM Learning Ecosystem***

Request for Qualifications for Individual or Firm to Serve as

### **STEM Ecosystem Catalyst**

The St. Louis STEM Ecosystem seeks a committed, collaborative individual or firm to manage the Ecosystem through execution of a two-year community alignment process and to position the Ecosystem for sustained success beyond the initial program period.

#### Background

The St. Louis Regional STEM Learning Ecosystem (“Ecosystem”) is a collaborative consortium committed to equitable access to high-quality STEM learning for all students in the St. Louis metro region. By uniting community stakeholders, both in-school and out-of-school, along defined pathways from early learning to education to workforce, the St. Louis STEM Ecosystem will foster systemic change by:

- 1) Building a Regional Culture of STEM Learning
- 2) Enhancing In-Class STEM Education
- 3) Ensuring In-Class Learning is Aligned with Quality and Accessible Out-of-Class STEM experiences
- 4) Linking STEM Learning with College and Career Opportunities

The Ecosystem will advance regional STEM collaboration toward a common vision and agenda through shared planning and measurement and continuous communication among stakeholders and with the community at large that deepens students’ engagement with STEM and prepares them to live and thrive in a globally-connected, technology-driven world. Initial guiding principles include: a youth-centered focus, a commitment to transparency, information sharing, data-driven decision-making, and continuous improvement.

Initial Ecosystem partners include BioSTL, Engineering Center of St. Louis, Harris-Stowe State University, James S. McDonnell Family Foundation, Missouri Math and Science Coalition (Missouri Chamber of Commerce), National Society of Black Engineers – St. Louis, Parents as Teachers, SCOPE National, Saint Louis University, STEMPact, St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), St. Louis Community College, Saint Louis Science Center, St. Louis Student Robotics Association, and Washington University Institute for School Partnership. Significant effort will be expended, including through this position, to ensure that a broad, diverse set of stakeholders are shaping the initiative and engaging communities across the region.

The St. Louis STEM Ecosystem has been selected to join the STEM Learning Ecosystems national initiative to make a significant impact on STEM education and workforce development. The Initiative provides a structured, two-year process and technical assistance that empowers communities to bring together unlikely local partners to create systemic change to ensure more students, particularly underserved and underrepresented students, develop the STEM knowledge and skills they need to learn and thrive in today’s world. Learn more about the national initiative at [stemecosystems.org](http://stemecosystems.org).

### Desired Characteristics

- Strong commitment to and passion for STEM education
- Networks and relationships across educational, corporate, and philanthropic partners engaged/interested in STEM
- Commitment to building an equitable STEM ecosystem
- Collaborative, outgoing community builder
- Highest level of personal and professional integrity
- 4+ years of experience in 3 or more of the following areas:
  - o STEM education and/or STEM outreach
  - o managing STEM-related programs
  - o building intentional, regional collaboration and cooperative entities
  - o launching new programs and/or organizations
  - o developing and executing projects through structured frameworks, e.g. the engineering design process or similar
  - o facilitating conversations across widely varied socioeconomic boundaries
  - o engaging diverse populations, including underserved and underrepresented communities

### Scope of Work

- Serve as the Ecosystem's primary point of contact with the national Community of Practice
- Manage relationship(s) with national Technical Assistance Lead and other coaches
- Engage additional Ecosystem partners
- Plan and facilitate regular meetings of Ecosystem participants
- Establish clear Ecosystem structure and plan for execution
- Execute Ecosystem plan and engage partners in activities
- Represent Ecosystem at national Community of Practice gatherings (in person, some travel) and by conference call; organize Ecosystem partners for their possible participation as well
- Plan for sustainability of the Ecosystem beyond the two year initiative

### Structure

Fixed-fee contract with BioSTL, which serves as the fiscal agent for the St. Louis STEM Ecosystem and submitted the regional STEM Ecosystem proposal to the national STEM Funders Network on behalf of Ecosystem partners. Catalyst will work under guidance and review of STEM Ecosystem Champion and yet to be determined oversight structure from Ecosystem Partners. Candidate is expected to commit sufficient professional time, attention, effort, and energy necessary to successfully fulfill the scope of work. Candidate could contract with additional third-parties to carry out the scope of work.

### Application Process

Please send a detailed letter of interest and résumé to [bioSTL@stlworks.com](mailto:bioSTL@stlworks.com) with "STEM Ecosystem Catalyst" in the subject line. Confidential inquiries can be submitted to Ben Johnson, Vice President Programs, BioSTL, at 314-880-8872 or [bjohnson@biostl.org](mailto:bjohnson@biostl.org). We are seeking individuals who will bring diverse perspectives and experiences. Interviews will be held until a candidate is identified.