



## STEM Talking Points for PTA Leaders

Use these key points when talking with school leaders, community members and families about your STEM + Families event:

### About STEM

- STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- STEM careers in the United States are growing faster than other professions.
- The demand for qualified professionals is high, but the supply of workers to fill these positions is low—especially among women, minorities and students from low-income families.
- Not all STEM careers require a four-year degree; many well-paid careers are accessible with a two-year degree or certificate.

### Why STEM + Families?

- To meet the demand for qualified STEM professionals, we must help students build the skills they need to pursue STEM degrees and career opportunities.
- Every child, regardless of zip code, ethnicity, race or gender, should have access to high-quality STEM education and career exploration.
- We know that family engagement supports student success. Parents and families strongly influence students' perceptions about what is possible for their future.

### How Families Can Support STEM Education

- Parents don't have to be STEM experts to get involved!
- Family members can help their children by setting high expectations for academic performance, creating a learning environment at home and asking guiding questions that encourage students to pursue STEM career pathways.
- STEM + Families events are "stay-and-play" experiences, not drop-and-go events.