



stemCONNECT Experts in the Classroom

stemCONNECT: Connecting Students with STEM Experts

A Florida High Tech Corridor Council Program for Schools and High Tech Experts

A new initiative from the Florida High Tech Corridor Council connects expert guest speakers with classrooms to introduce students to the numerous subjects within the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. stemCONNECT provides teachers and students virtual access to experts with the touch of a button through online and interactive sessions!

How Does It Work?

Scientists and researchers from Corridor universities, state colleges and local industry will volunteer their time to discuss their specific topic of expertise using stemCONNECT's easy-to-use, virtual platform. Subjects can include any STEM application—the possibility of life on Mars, how various chemical reactions can create alternative forms of energy, the physics of making video games, the math of medicine or nearly anything in between.

Using Web video conferencing, these presentations can include live or taped video, slides and other movie formats as if the speaker were directly in the classroom. Students will be able to ask questions and interact with the speaker from their office or laboratory.

What Technology Do I Need to Participate?

stemCONNECT has licensed the technology which allows for classrooms and experts to interact with each other throughout the presentation. If multiple teachers are interested in participating in the same virtual lesson, a simultaneous feed into each classroom can be arranged.

Participating classrooms and experts need:

- A computer (classrooms will also need a connected projector for classroom viewing and speakers for audio)
- High-Speed Internet connection
- stemCONNECT will provide a web cam and microphone.

The meeting will be controlled remotely by stemCONNECT organizers so that there is no interference in the conversation. stemCONNECT will provide additional instructions and training prior to the stemCONNECT session.

How Much Does it Cost?

stemCONNECT is completely FREE and provided by The Corridor at no cost to school districts throughout the 23-county Corridor region. Academic and industry experts volunteer their time to deliver their expertise to students and teachers virtually in the classroom.

How Do I Volunteer as an Expert or Request a Speaker?

Teachers and experts who wish to participate in stemCONNECT may contact the

coordinators directly or create a profile through the stemCONNECT website. Teachers can register their classroom and submit a request for subjects that coordinate with their lesson plans or that would pique their students' interest. STEM experts can fill out their profile by listing areas of expertise and speaking availabilities. No STEM topic is too obscure or trivial; however, coordinators require at least three weeks to match a classroom with an appropriate subject matter expert. Because expert volunteers will not always be available for a selected time and date, stemCONNECT coordinators will attempt to provide the best possible match for both teachers and experts.



Experts and Teachers:

For more information, please contact any of the stemCONNECT coordinators:

- Jeff Bindell (jeff.bindell@floridahightech.com)
- Vicki Morelli (vicki.morelli@floridahightech.com)

Learn more:

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