A Million STEM Mentors: A National Movement!

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Abstract

In the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM Jobs. 80% of the fastest growing occupations in the United States depend upon mastery of mathematics and scientific knowledge and skills. While women comprise 50% of the US workforce, just 24% are in STEM fields, a statistic that has held constant for nearly the last decade. Almost one-third of all male freshmen, compared with only 15% of all female freshmen, plan to major in a STEM field even though 15 out of the 20 fastest growing occupations in 2015 are expected to require science or mathematics training. Too many of these women leave STEM degree paths despite their good academic standing, often citing uncomfortable classroom experiences and climate. Even when women persist to earn a STEM degree, women are less likely than their male counterparts to work in a STEM field.

Million Women Mentors®, an initiative of STEMconnector®, is a national movement which supports the engagement of one million STEM mentors (male and female) to increase the number of girls and women from school age to work age continuum to persist and succeed in STEM programs and careers by the year 2018.

Goals

THROUGH ENGAGING ONE MILLION MENTORS BY 2018, OUR GOALS ARE TO:

1. Increase the percentage of U.S. high school girls planning to pursue STEM careers.
2. Increase the percentage of U.S. young women pursuing undergraduate degrees in STEM fields in higher education.
3. Increase the percentage of U.S. women staying and advancing in STEM careers through supporting workforce-mentoring programs.

Methods

We will:

- Lead a national call to action for corporations, organizations and individuals to join MWM and capture metrics around mentoring girls and young women in STEM
- Provide an automated, scalable and easy-to-use platform to eliminate barriers and facilitate large numbers of STEM professionals (male and female) with tools to becoming effective mentors in partnership with 50+ national organizations reaching over 20 million girls
- Connect participating corporations and others to scaled non-profit partners and educational institutions in need of STEM mentors and role models
- Recognize and share best practices and “who is doing what” in mentoring girls in STEM learning

Why do we need mentors?

Graduate college without a mentor

368,000

High School Students

Interested in a STEM career

Pledge Now!

A “Pledge” with MWM is a commitment to mentor a girl in STEM for 20 hours in the year and will also sign you up to receive regular communication from the national movement. Throughout this mentorship process, along with your help, MWM aims to provide the information necessary to help girls and women persist and succeed in STEM programs and careers.

Sponsors and Partners