

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM MORNING GENERAL SESSION

Festa Ballroom

Welcome

Morning Keynote - Tara Chklovski, Technovation

“Empowering the Next Generation of Problem Solvers”

9:15 AM - 9:25AM

Break

9:25 AM - 10:15 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS - ROUND ONE

STEM & Beyond: Where Subjects Collide and Creativity Thrives

GRAND EAST

Igniting Impact: How ERGs Power the STEM Talent Pipeline

GRAND CENTER

STEM Careers in an AI-Driven World: Perspectives from Education and Industry on Skills, Opportunities, and the Future of Work

GRAND WEST

Keynote Follow-Up Session with Tara Chklovski, Technovision

CONF 1&2

10:15 AM - 10:35 AM Generation STEM Displays, Break

10:35 AM - 11:25 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS - ROUND TWO

STEM as Story: How Epic Narratives Spark Real-World Support

GRAND EAST

Igniting Curiosity: The Power of STEM Tours

GRAND CENTER

Building AI Literacy for an Equitable Future

GRAND WEST

11:25 AM - 11:45 AM Generation STEM Displays, Break

CONFERENCE AGENDA CONTINUED

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION

Festa Ballroom

Lunch Featuring the Musical Stylings of Roy Moye III, STEMusic

The Stemmy Awards presented by Stemmy Emcee - Dr. Victor Amaya

Education Category - Pathways High

Employer Category - Clarios

Partnership Category - WCTC

Individual Category - Sarah Stelsel

Afternoon Keynote - Dr. Nehemiah Mabry - “Dr. Nee”

“Engineering Inspiration: Igniting Purpose & Possibility in STEM”

1:30 PM - 1:40 PM

Break

1:40 PM - 2:30 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS - ROUND THREE

NSF Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering & Computer Science

GRAND EAST

Masters of the Mundane: Unveiling STEM Potential through Everyday Expertise

GRAND CENTER

Sparkling Curiosity with Data: Building Future-Ready STEM Learners

GRAND WEST

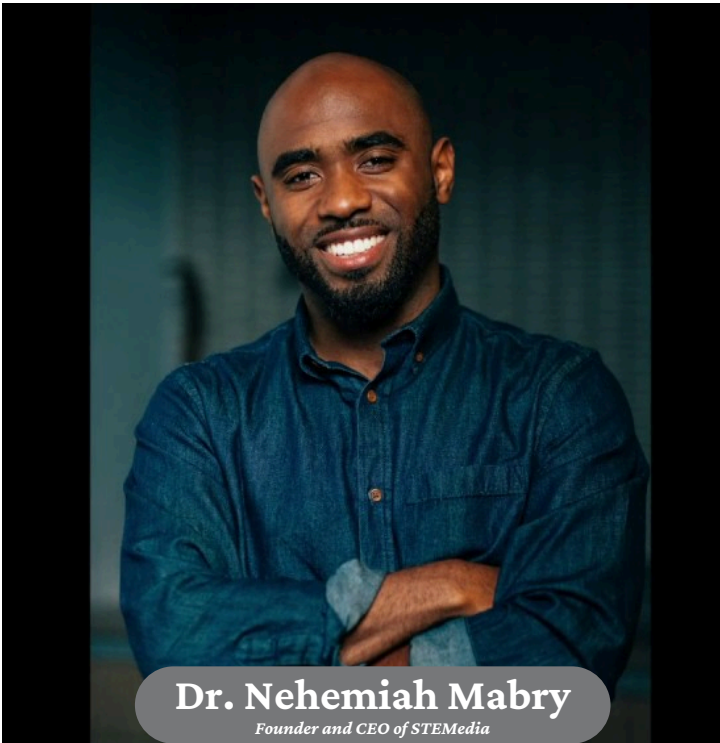
Keynote Follow-Up Session with Dr. Nehemiah Mabry “Dr. Nee,” STEMedia

CONF 1&2

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Networking Reception, Vendor Exhibits

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. NEHEMIAH MABRY - "DR. NEE"



Dr. Nehemiah Mabry
Founder and CEO of STEMedia

Dr. Nehemiah Mabry is a structural engineer, award-winning educator, and founder of STEMedia, a dynamic platform that fuses STEM, creativity, and culture. With a powerful mix of technical insight and motivational energy, Dr. Mabry brings STEM to life in ways that are engaging, relatable, and inspiring.

Attendees can look forward to an energizing session that challenges stereotypes, celebrates innovation, and sparks new ideas for making STEM more impactful. You'll leave his talk feeling fired up to engage the next generation of changemakers.

STEMEDIA

MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER TARA CHKLOVSKI

Tara Chklovski, founder of Technovation, is a global leader in STEM education and youth empowerment. A true advocate for young changemakers, especially girls, Tara will share powerful insights on how we can ignite curiosity, fuel confidence, and equip the next generation of STEM leaders to shape a better future.

Get ready to be energized by her vision for a more inclusive, innovative future in STEM!

TECHNOVATION



Tara Chklovski
Founder & CEO of Technovation

LEARN MORE AT WWW.STEMFORWARD.ORG/SYSTEMNOW-CONFERENCE

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ROUND 1 | 9:25 AM - 10:15 AM

STEM & Beyond: Where Subjects Collide and Creativity Thrives

Katy Casleton, Jennifer Haynor, & Jolene Wasilewski - South Milwaukee School District

Explore how STEM and literacy can come together to create powerful, engaging learning experiences! In this session, you'll discover creative ways to connect science, technology, engineering, and math with reading and writing through hands-on projects and mixed-media tools. Learn how to design lessons that inspire curiosity, support comprehension, and help students build connections across subjects. Come away with practical strategies, project ideas, and collaborative tools to bring both STEM and stories to your classroom.

Leave with one integrated STEM + literacy lesson idea you can adapt and implement right away, complete with cross-curricular connections, hands-on components, and options for differentiation.

GRAND
EAST

K-8 EDU

Igniting Impact: How ERGs Power the STEM Talent Pipeline

Alicia Alcantara Dendura, Alza 360

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) are often seen as internal cultural hubs, but their true power lies in community transformation. This session will explore how ERGs can become strategic engines for inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders, particularly in underrepresented communities. Learn how to harness ERG momentum to drive mentoring, career exposure, and inclusive pathways from K-12 to early careers. Drawing on successful models from industry practice, participants will leave equipped with actionable strategies to amplify community partnerships, boost employee engagement, and embed STEM equity into their organizational DNA.

Participants will receive a customizable ERG Community Activation Plan template to immediately begin designing or enhancing their ERG's STEM outreach strategy, aligning efforts with both organizational goals and community needs.

GRAND
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STEM Careers in an AI-Driven World: Perspectives from Education and Industry on Skills, Opportunities, and the Future of Work

Phyllis King, WCTC; James Michlig, Muskego-Norway School District; Tim Dickson, RegalRexnord;

Alli Jerger, WCTC; Olga Imas, MSOE; Bekir Atahan, Manpower Group

AI is transforming the world of work and STEM careers are at the forefront. In this session, we'll explore how automation is reshaping roles in science, technology, engineering, and math. From streamlining research to enhancing innovation, AI is not replacing STEM professionals, it's changing how they work. We'll discuss emerging career trends, essential skills for the future, and the ethical challenges ahead.

Identify one task in your current or future field that could be improved or transformed by AI and brainstorm how you can develop skills to work alongside that technology.

GRAND
WEST

9-12 EDU
HIGHER ED
INDUSTRY
STEM
COMMUNITY

Keynote Follow-Up Session with Tara Chklovski, Technovation

CONF
1&2

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ROUND 2 | 10:35 AM - 11:25 AM

STEM as Story: How Epic Narratives Spark Real-World Support

Peter Graven, St. Francis School District; Mark Boyce, Source Ten Visual Storytelling

The St. Francis Robotics Team is on a transformative three-year journey, uniting educators, researchers, students, and industry professionals in a mission where building an underwater ROV is no longer the destination but a milestone in a much larger exploration and learning experience. Sharing and shaping that story has brought engagement and support from across the country, making for a much richer experience for students and an even better story to tell. This session will use the St Francis efforts as a case study of how to frame a challenge, share the story, and build support.

Participants will follow the steps shared to work together and help shape the story for a member at their table-- a teacher working to do great things or a community partner stepping in to help, to show how to use these skills in your organization.

GRAND
EAST

K-12 EDU
HIGHER ED
INDUSTRY

Igniting Curiosity: The Power of STEM Tours

Heidi Balestrieri, Sentry Equipment/SWE; Joshua Hoffman, Waukesha STEM; Erik Wolbach, Union Grove High School

Join us for an engaging session that explores the vital role of school-company partnerships in fostering a passion for STEM among students. This session will delve into the importance of arranging company tours from both the school and company perspectives. We will discuss the logistics involved, share best practices, and highlight what makes a tour successful. Learn how these tours can ignite curiosity, inspire future careers in STEM, and create lasting connections between education and industry.

Whether you're an educator or a company representative, this session will provide valuable insights and practical tips to help you organize impactful STEM tours.

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IK-12 EDU
INDUSTRY

Building AI Literacy for an Equitable Future

Katie Grillaert, Assessed Intelligence; Orlando Lopez, Synergy Technology Advisors

AI tools are reshaping how we learn, create, and make decisions, but often without our understanding of how they work or who they serve. In this session, participants will explore four key areas of AI risk - bias, security, disinformation, and loss of agency - using a framework for critical analysis. We'll learn how to "look under the hood" to understand the power dynamics behind how AI is built, used, and how it influences our lives. Participants will develop skills in critical analysis and discuss how they can be agents of AI literacy in their communities.

Learn to apply a critical framework to real-life cases of AI risks and propose an AI literacy action for your organization or community.

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9-12 EDU
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BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ROUND 3 | 1:40 PM - 2:30 PM

NSF Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering & Computer Science

David Nowak, Sentry Equipment; Qian Laio, UW-M

The National Science Foundation offers funding for educators to participate in academic research, helping them deepen their STEM knowledge and bring real-world science into the classroom. For researchers, it's a chance to gain support and connect with K-14 education. Locally, the Water Equipment and Policy Center (WEP)—a partnership between Marquette, UW-Milwaukee, and industry leaders—funds water-related research projects that can benefit from educator involvement. This session will introduce these NSF programs and guide educators on how to apply.

Interested teachers and educators will learn the steps to reach out to colleges to help with research.

GRAND
EAST

K-12 EDU

Masters of the Mundane: Unveiling STEM Potential through Everyday Expertise

Cassie Naze & Ethan Corr, Clarios

At Clarios, battery teardowns and disassembling spent lead-acid batteries are a routine yet essential engineering practice. Through their STEM Education initiative, they transform this process into a hands-on learning experience for middle school students. By simulating teardowns, students explore real-world engineering, sparking curiosity and critical thinking. This session highlights how even the most ordinary technical tasks can become powerful teaching tools. We'll share how Clarios engineers turn daily routines into engaging outreach, inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. Join us to discover how your expertise can fuel mentorship, learning, and innovation in young minds.

What do you do that makes you unique? Explore your industry to identify your area of expertise and turn it around to create an exciting opportunity for hands-on exploration.

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Sparkling Curiosity with Data: Building Future-Ready STEM Learners

Kaitlin Henze, storytelling with data; Bernie Traversari, STEM Education Consultant; Ramya Thangavel, People Analytics Strategist; Rohan Katti, Data You Can Use; Tina Gleason, Golda Meir; Gabriel Velez, Marquette University

Data is everywhere—and understanding how to interpret, question, and communicate it is an essential skill for the next generation of STEM leaders. In this panel discussion, participants will hear from experts in the data literacy space about why it is critical to begin teaching these skills at a young age. Panelists will share practical strategies and easy tips for making data literacy fun and engaging for kids, turning math and data lessons into curiosity-driven activities that inspire deeper thinking and meaningful exploration. Discover how data storytelling helps students make sense of the world, solve real problems, and share their insights with confidence.

Takeaway actions for the audience:

1. Integrate data storytelling into STEM lessons through hands-on, curiosity-driven activities that spark student engagement.
2. Apply practical resources and examples from the session in classrooms to help students collect, analyze, and communicate data.
3. Connect learning to real-world STEM challenges, making data exploration meaningful, creative, and confidence-building..

GRAND
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K-8 EDU
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Keynote Follow-Up Session with Dr. Nehemiah Mabry, “Dr Nee,” STEMedia

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Robotics Club - Brookfield Central

Coach: Supriya Shetty & Amjad Jabbar; Students: Jake, Caleb, Rohit, Daniel

FIRST Robotics program where 7-12th grade students build robots to compete in game challenges every year.

6th Grade Science - Carmen South Middle School

Educator: Michael Egan; Students: Yeshua, Amanda, Jermon, Valeria

In association with Gearbox Labs, we have been working hard to create 3D print models and want to showcase the hard work these students have put in

Ignatian Innovation - Creative Skill Development - Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

Educator: Andrew BoddySpargo; Students:

The Ignatian Innovation Program provides students access to cutting-edge creative tools in their existing classes, extracurricular activities, and Corporate Work Study experiences. Students learn skills like photography, videography, and podcasting so that they can share their voices and experiences and become content creators, not just content consumers.

ARC Rocket Team - Eisenhower Middle & High School

Educator: Herman Restrepo; Students: Keira, Prabanjan, Nate

Our student team is designing, building, and testing a rocket for the American Rocketry Challenge. This year's goal is to carry a raw egg to 750 ft with a flight time of 36–39 seconds, with teams aiming for the lowest score possible. The top 100 teams nationwide will advance to the national launch in May 2026.

NASA STEM Club - Glen Hills Middle School

Educator: Lalitha Murali; Students: Sawyer, Samuel, Leo, Lucas, Matthew, Brayden

Lalitha Murali, a NASA ambassador, volunteers as a community liaison to share the excitement of NASA's missions and discoveries. She engages students in hands-on STEM learning that builds critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and career awareness. Some of her students will showcase their skills and learning at this event.

Civic & Environmental Education Fellows - Glen Hills Middle School

Educator: Lalitha Murali; Students: Emma, Nicholas, Evan, Daniel, Marissa, Brayden

As the Lake Michigan Champions of Conservation, Glen Hills Middle School students are working on a civic and environmental action project this year to educate our community about the freshwater and clean environment. They would like to share their knowledge, research and action project with the community members.

Make 48 - Golda Meir

Educator: Tina Gleason; Students: Camilah De Leon, Dayana Landa-Medina, Maya Sierra

This display will showcase our students and their winning Prototypes for both of last year's Regional and National Make 48 Competition. In addition, it will showcase how we have brought this competition into the Golda Classroom to engage even more students!

Science Project - Hayes Bilingual

Educator: Tanya Pick; Students: Zofia Hernandez, Richard Perez, Brian Lopez, Eva Clary, Abiel Mayorga, Ana Sophia Morales, Kiana Quijano

The Hayes Bilingual Students will highlight two science projects they are working on:

First graders learned how engineers use the design process to solve problems by building robots with recycled materials—each with one moving part. They designed, built, and redesigned their creations just like real engineers!

Third graders explored severe weather and applied the design process to tackle a real-world challenge: building a hurricane-proof house.

Defense Projects - Pathways High

Educator: Chris Kjaer; Students: Dominic D'Cruz, Miles Meaux

Pathways High students demonstrate learning through a mastery defense process:

3-D Printer: A custom-built 3D printer—designing the frame, integrating electrical and mechanical components to defend the Advanced Technology Integration standard.

Rain World Game: Game development work, leading a global team and running a Rain World mod site, (14,000+ visitors and 3,200 subscribers) ranking in the top 40 worldwide.

FIRST Lego League - South Milwaukee Middle School

Educator: Julie Barnet; Students:

Students will share their innovation project and boards, along with having a robot from our current competition there to show how it operates. Students are part of the 3 teams that South Milwaukee Middle School offers.

NASA Techrise Rockets - South Milwaukee Middle School

Educator: Isabel Mendiola; Students: Blakely, Addyson, Kaylyn

As part of the NASA TechRise Student Challenge, we launched a scientific payload on a high-altitude balloon to 78,000 feet. It measured VOCs in the atmosphere and lower stratosphere, and the recovered data was analyzed by our team on August 22, 2025.

Robotic Arm Interactive Tic-Tac-Toe - St. Augustine Preparatory Academy

Educator: Julie Wollenberg; Students: Dafne, Seth

Students created a tic-tac-toe game using Python and a robotic arm. The arm will place the poker chips in the correct location on the board and tell when there is a winner.

Morse Code Generator - St. Augustine Preparatory Academy

Educator: Julie Wollenberg; Students: Talitha, Dulce

Students created a morse code generator using Python and a Raspberry Pi. A user can enter a word or message and it will beep out the corresponding Morse Code

Dreaming Bigger, Driving Deeper (PINKrov) - St. Francis

Educator: Peter Graven; Students: Andrew, Miles, Ashlin

A robotics team from St. Francis, WI has partnered with an Underwater Archaeologist and other organizations on a transformative three-year journey, uniting educators, researchers, students, and industry professionals in a mission where the ROV is no longer the destination but a milestone in a much larger exploration and learning experience.

Future Cities Project - Waukesha STEM Academy

Educator: Joshua Hoffman; Students:

Our Future Cities team is planning and preparing for the this year's competition and we would like to share our up and coming ideas on continuing to expand our skills coming off our national competition.

Club SciKids Greater Milwaukee

Tanzania Sewell

Club SciKidz is your STEAM enrichment partner for kids ages 4-14. Our after-school programs, standards aligned in-school field trips and summer camps are the perfect hands-on, minds-on experience for all curious learners. Our experienced team of educators looks forward to working with your learner!

Daphne Draws Data, storytelling with data

Kaitlin Henze

We provide free STEM education programs for K-8 students using the book, Daphne Draws Data and conducting hands on graphing activities. We also have many free resources online and a Data Detectives program for community members, educators, parents, and industry professionals to join to support our mission

Engineering Tomorrow

Ann Viegut

Engineering Tomorrow brings no-cost STEM labs to high school students all over the country. From machine learning and robotics to aerodynamics and 3D printing, we make math and science tangible through real-world applications, problem-solving, and mentorship. Our mission is to broaden access to the multifaceted field of engineering, and broaden the horizons of high school students through virtual labs, mentorship, and hands-on instruction.

FIRST Robotics

Jane Blau

FIRST Robotics is a nonprofit K-12 Robotics program that uses STEM Education to prepare students for the future after high school. Students learn real-world skills that open pathways to a better future.

Gearbox Labs

Peter Haydock

Gearbox Labs is a non-profit STEM organization empowering students, teachers, classrooms, schools, and families with free face-to-face and virtual workshops and in-class residencies in Engineering, Technology and Coding. Our work reinforces science and math while providing learners with new skills and tools for creativity and innovation.

Learning Blade

Colleen Ross

Learning Blade is a FREE online STEM and career awareness platform designed to help students (typically in grades 5–9) explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math and high-demand fields like computer science, manufacturing, and healthcare.

M.Ed. in STEM Teaching, Marquette University

Jenny LaManna and Lisa Chase

NSF Funded Program that offers full tuition scholarship and small stipend support to STEM Professionals with an undergraduate degree in a STEM Field to transition to middle and high school teachers.

STEMusic

Roy Moye III

STEMusic LLC inspires the next generation of diverse STEM leaders through music-powered concerts, workshops, and keynotes. In high-energy 45-minute performances, Grammy-nominated artist and aerospace engineer Roy Moye III engages students with STEM-themed songs, live science experiments, interactive coding activities, and the exciting STEMusic Math Game. Students also explore real-world STEM careers, making the experience fun, memorable, and deeply impactful.