

## Developing a Navigational Tool for Wisconsin

Driven by innovation, technology and human capital, Wisconsin's future is hinged upon a skilled and talented generation of learners. The Wisconsin STEM Navigators to the Future is intended to inspire commitment by educators, community leaders and employers of STEM talent from both the public and private sector, to engage in strategies that will put an emphasis on the importance and value of STEM related fields and the careers that drive innovation.

By working together, PreK-12 school systems, colleges and universities, educational cooperatives, businesses and industries, youth organizations, local and state government organizations and other supportive professional organizations can provide a fertile ground to grow a New Wisconsin Idea. That new idea leverages the collaborative participation of industry to redesign the educational experiences of students at all grade levels; creating a climate of learner engagement, technological literacy, and academic success for teachers and administrators to gauge their school's performance.

Stakeholders for the Wisconsin STEM Navigators to the Future report included citizens from all sectors of business, education, labor, government and community based organizations, who participated in the collection of facts, opinions and ideas, to create the strategic success markers contained within this report.

A voluntary advisory committee refined the process and collaborated with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to analyze the results of six statewide data gathering summits. The following discoveries represent the result of the study and set the navigational success markers for leveraging STEM talent in Wisconsin.

### Success Markers

Five major success markers have been identified by Wisconsin's STEM advocates:

1. Eliminate barriers that prevent learners from exploring STEM careers;
2. Increase emphasis on acquiring STEM knowledge and skills for all learners;
3. Increase public/private partnerships with a focus on STEM skills;
4. Establish a statewide awareness campaign for STEM careers;
5. Invest in pre- and post-professional development for educators to fully understand and integrate STEM throughout the curriculum.

Each success marker description includes opinions on current status, necessary actions needed, and measures of success.

## Vision for the Future

**Working together on a clearly defined set of educational and workforce development goals, Wisconsin's PreK-12 educators and employers of STEM talent will ensure that all Wisconsin learners have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for and succeed in STEM related careers.**



*"It is essential for students to have access to role models in STEM related careers. Participating in an engineering camp in the seventh grade is what inspired me to become an engineer."*

**Alyssa Albrecht, Product Engineer,  
A & E Tools**

