



# Rural STEAM Leadership Network

## Participating Hubs

Central Oregon STEM Hub  
Frontier STEM Hub  
Mid-Valley STEM-CTE Hub  
Northwest STEM Hub  
Oregon Coast STEM Hub  
Southern Oregon STEM Hub  
Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub

## Goals and Deliverables

- Recruitment of administrators & teachers for Regional Learning Collaboratives
- Launch of Regional Learning Collaboratives
- Regional Learning Collaborative Convenings
- Recruitment of administrators & teachers for State-Wide Virtual Regional Learning Collaboratives
- State-Wide Virtual Regional Learning Collaboratives
- Recruitment of administrators & classroom teachers for Regional Learning Facilitator Pathway
- Launch of Regional Learning Facilitator Pathways
- Recruitment of small teams for each Learning Facilitator
- Co-facilitation & on-going learning communities
- State-Wide Learning Collaborative

## Grant Overview

The **Rural STEAM Leadership Network** is a multi-STE(A)M Hub collaboration bringing together K-8

rural and remote administrators and educators in regional **Rural Learning Collaboratives**. Within these groups a select team of K-8 formal and nonformal/informal educators are cultivated as **Learning Facilitators** to lead professional learning in their regions. This two-pronged approach increases equitable access to STEAM education resources, opportunities, and funding to historically marginalized rural and remote communities while also building new platforms and pathways for rural educators to lead and network at the regional and statewide level.

## Addressing Equity

Using 2020 Claritas data, 33% (1,390,536) of Oregon's population lives in rural areas and 2% (93,887) in frontier areas. Rural is defined in Oregon as any geographic areas that are ten or more miles from the center of an area with a population of 40,000 or more. Frontier is defined as six or fewer people per square mile. Ten of Oregon's 36 counties are identified as Frontier (OHSU, 2020).

There are challenges associated with teaching in these rural and frontier areas where there is often limited interaction with other teachers and access to internet/broadband/technology. By empowering our rural teachers to collaborate with other rural teachers, they can share similar circumstances and co-create learning environments representative and applicable for their students.

We have several teachers participating in the existing cohorts who are in one room schoolhouse schools. The population of our rural communities includes emerging multilingual students, Native students, students living in foster care, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and students from economically distressed regions. Applicants from the rural and remote regions of each participating STEM Hub are recruited explicitly by STEM Hub leadership. Applicants from these regions are also prioritized for limited opportunities or funding opportunities.

The Rural STEM Leadership Network also specifically taps into the rural and remote communities, providing a unique platform for individuals to present, share, and celebrate their uniquely rural innovations, ideas, and challenges to the larger statewide community. [The Network](#)

## Select Outcomes

### Central Oregon STEM Hub

Robust participation in both the Regional Learning Facilitator Workshops and state-wide Learning Facilitator Workshops held in summer 2022, and the Regional Rural Learning Collaboratives which met regularly during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Central Oregon STEM Hub was able to have their newly trained Learning Facilitators deliver workshops regionally during the summer of 2022, as well as the 2022-2023 school year and the summer of 2023.

### Frontier STEM Hub

In addition to supporting local educators to participate in the statewide Rural Learning Collaboratives and Statewide Learning Facilitator Workshops, Frontier STEM Hub coordinated and co-facilitated the Rural High

School Science Learning Collaborative in Malheur & Burns Counties, connecting newer science teachers with their veteran peers for shared learning and community around NGSS, curriculum, and classroom strategies. Seventeen Science Educators participated in over 580 hours of learning collaborative of science-specific PD.

### Oregon Coast STEM Hub

In addition to supporting local educators to participate in the statewide Rural Learning Collaboratives and Statewide Learning Facilitator Workshops, the OCSH supported several other activities, including a series of lunch and learn sessions for educators and community partners, a daylong in-person educator workshop facilitated by the Oregon Natural Resource Education Program, and activities associated with the North Bay Elementary Community Forest Initiative which involved 480 students. We also partnered with Yakona Nature Preserve and Learning Center to host multiple educator workshops.

