



FIRST For All - Workshop #4 Becoming a Catalyst for STEM

Workshop Insights - 12/5/24

1. Catalysts for Interest in STEM

- Inspirational guides and role models (e.g., teachers, family members).
- Exposure through school science fairs, LEGO programs, and other accessible activities.
- Representation in STEM roles to encourage diverse participation.

2. Improving Accessibility in STEM

- Making outreach efforts more inclusive and using simpler language to lower barriers.
- Offering structured and credible programs like electives, workshops, community events.
- Ensuring financial and technological support, such as loaning equipment.

3. Innovative Engagement Approaches

- Publishing STEM-focused media, such as children's books (e.g., "Felix and Phoebe's Robot").
- Organizing interactive outreach at public events like fairs.
- Using relatable content, such as sports-science connections, to engage diverse interests.

4. Social Media and Technology Utilization

- Leveraging platforms like Facebook and Instagram for recruitment, engagement, and promotions.
- Sharing inspiring STEM stories and videos to reach broader audiences.
- Using live broadcasting for real-time engagement with underrepresented communities.

5. Breaking Down Barriers

- Reducing "tribalism" in schools by connecting STEM with other interests like sports.
- Addressing the challenge of limited team capacities to ensure equitable participation.
- Encouraging inclusive team environments where students feel safe and valued.

6. Metrics for Success

- Developing soft skills like teamwork, stress management, and adaptability.
- Ensuring that teams reflect the diversity of their communities.
- Tracking increased participation from underrepresented groups.



7. Actionable Takeaways

- Using personal stories and simple, relatable language for effective outreach.
- Creating pathways for leadership development within teams.
- Documenting knowledge and training methods for sustainable success.