

A Leader in Developing Prepared Youth

ILLINOIS



THE CURRENT CONDITION OF STEM EDUCATION

Current STEM workforce demands are not being met. If current trends continue, the U.S. will lose quality jobs to other nations, lowering our standard of living, reducing tax revenues, and weakening the domestic market for goods and services. Over the past ten years, the percentage of ACT-tested students who said they were interested in majoring in engineering has dropped steadily from 7.6 percent to 4.9 percent. Achievement gaps persist for females and minorities in reaching K-12 math and science standards, as well as completion rates for STEM degrees in higher education.

OUTCOMES OF 4-H

3X

4-H youth are three times more likely to participate in out-of-school science programs and twice as likely to pursue a career in science than youth in other out-of-school programs.

2X

Illinois 4-H youth are twice as likely to say they're "good at" science and are more likely to want a job related to science.

5X

4-H youth are five times more likely to graduate from college. Nearly all Illinois 4-H seniors plan to continue their education, with 69% planning to attend an Illinois college or community college.

When you support Illinois 4-H programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, you are helping prepare the next generation of innovators and critical thinkers in Illinois.

4-H STEM programs engage diverse youth across rural, suburban and urban communities. Participants include 48% girls and 52% boys.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

More than 75 percent of the top 25 jobs for 2014 were STEM fields. A bachelor's degree holder earns twice as much in a lifetime as a high school graduate. College graduates have better career options, greater chance of landing a job, and better chance of progress in their future.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Graduates pay more taxes on their typically-higher salaries. College graduates rely less on government programs and are less likely to be incarcerated. College graduates are more likely to engage in civic activities. Since college graduates are more likely to have jobs that provide health insurance and retirement benefits, they have better access to preventative health care, leading to longer and healthier lives. This leads to less public spending on social programs, reducing the cost of government. College graduates are more likely to volunteer and more likely to vote.

