ATTEND A "STEMinar" WORKSHOP

Your Blueprint to Getting into a STEM University - presented by C2 Education (10:30 a.m., Room 108)
During this seminar, we will walk you through the formula for becoming the best applicant possible for STEM-focused colleges and universities. Schools in engineering, math, technology, and science are among the most competitive institutions in the country and include rigorous and demanding degree programs. With an ever-growing focus on and evolution of technology in our classrooms, workplaces, and communities, STEM schools are increasingly demanding that their potential students meet higher and higher expectations. Join C2 in learning how to prepare a strong, successful high school career and application that addresses the key admissions factors and requirements that STEM schools expect from students.

Funding Your STEM Education 101 – presented by Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
(11:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., Room 108)
You can imagine where you want to be - a doctor serving patients or an engineer designing new technologies - but you're unsure of how to get there, especially with the rising costs of college. Hear from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the nation's largest scholarship provider for high achieving students with financial need, about how you can fund your STEM education and how you can make yourself more competitive for national scholarships.

Careers in Healthcare Are Here Forever! – presented by UMB Cure Scholars Program
(12 p.m., Room 108)
Healthcare is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States and abroad. Healthcare occupations are not only in demand, but they pay well. Come to learn more about how your interest in science, math, engineering, and technology fit into a healthcare career.

Utilizing Robotics in Your STEM Career - presented by UMB Cure Scholars Program
(1:30 p.m., Room 108)
Come to see and experience how Robotics Education is transforming careers in science, engineering, and healthcare.

Planning Now for Your Successful STEM Future - presented by Maryland Business Roundtable for Education/Building STEPS (10:30 a.m. Room 109)
Good grades in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math classes are important, but colleges and universities reviewing your application will want to see that you had a strong, comprehensive high school foundation. What are the 'right' classes, the ones that admissions officials and STEM degree programs will be looking for, and what other experiences should you seek in high school to submit a competitive college application? Find out in this fun and engaging workshop!

Coding 101, presented by Code in the Schools (11:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., Room 109)
Want to learn about one of the nation's fastest growing occupations? Don't miss out an opportunity to learn what computer programming, or “coding” is all about and how to jumpstart your career in this widely available and lucrative career pathway!

Engineering: Solving the World's Problems - presented by JHU School of Engineering
(12 p.m., Room 109)
Learn more about important problems that engineers are solving across the globe to see if this is the career for you!

Connecting the Dots: How to Build a Career in STEM - presented by I AM O'Kah! Inc.
(1:30 p.m., Room 109)
Currently, there are job postings for driver-less car engineers - these did not exist ten years ago. With entirely new careers continuously being created, how can you keep up? This workshop will help students explore how to spot potential trends and build a dynamic career in STEM by finding relevant internships and experiences.

Middle Schools Passport for Success! (10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 p.m., Upper Level Arena)
Middle schoolers, your fair experience starts here! Get your Passport to Success! These 30-minute sessions will provide middle school students with tips for talking to colleges and universities, and industry representatives. It will also include a specially-designed robotics session!
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The most updated list of schools attending is available online at [http://bit.ly/2tet9zk](http://bit.ly/2tet9zk) (This link is case sensitive).
Making the Most of Your Visit to a STEM College and Career Fair

Ready to learn more about the opportunities available to students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math? There's no better place to explore your options than at a NACAC STEM College and Career Fair.

College admission representatives and industry professionals are all gathered in one place. Their goal: To help you envision educational and career paths in STEM.

Make the most out of your day by following these simple steps.

Take time to explore. The list of STEM-related degrees and careers is nearly endless, and it continues to grow.

Set aside time to investigate the majors and careers that most interest you, but don't let your search stop there.

Institutions across the country offer STEM programs, and companies big and small are looking for employees who think critically.

"Keep an open mind," said college counselor Susan Rexford. "If you go in with a preconceived idea of the types of colleges or industries you want to explore, you may end up missing out on potential majors or careers that would be a perfect fit."

Make note of exhibitors you know you want to visit. But also leave time to explore, and scan through the fair's schedule of workshops, sessions that offer invaluable advice about internships, career opportunities, and more.

"You don't want to make the mistake of going into the fair so focused on one STEM career, say mechanical engineering, that you overlook other great opportunities," said Rexford, director of college guidance at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School (MD). "Take the opportunity to learn about a variety of STEM careers. Knowing what you like (and what you don't like) will pay off later in the college search process."

Learn about admission requirements. Your path to a STEM career starts with a college degree.

"We want students to be taking math and science classes all the way through high school," said Jonathan Hoster, an undergraduate recruitment specialist with the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University (NY). "We want to see that students have taken the most challenging courses available to them. When I'm reading applications, I need to get a sense from a student's transcript that they're going to be able to be successful in a challenging environment."

Ask college reps about other helpful classes or activities. Are writing and public speaking skills important? What about participation in extracurriculars related to STEM, such as robotics?

"We want to make sure students walk away knowing the steps they can take to be prepared," Hoster said.

Share your story and get the facts. Is there a specific STEM subject or activity that excites you? Let fair exhibitors know.

"A great way to start a conversation is by telling them a little bit about yourself," Rexford said.

Love working with math equations? Ask which STEM majors and careers would allow you to solve problems on a daily basis. Are you fascinated by the human genome? Find out which types of jobs include DNA analysis.

"This is an opportunity for students to talk about their interests, and find out how they can continue to explore those areas in college, and later as a STEM professional," Hoster said.

Fairs also give students an opening to quiz exhibitors about the path ahead.

What sort of projects or research do students at a particular college tackle? What qualities do businesses look for when hiring entry-level STEM employees?

"Ask for concrete examples," Hoster said. "It can help you decide if a college or career is right for you."

Ask questions and take notes. Up to 150 exhibitors will be expected at each fair, offering attendees the opportunity to have dozens of conversations about college and career options.

Use a notebook to capture the highlights. Does an engineering program host an annual solar car race? Are students from all 50 states represented on campus? Did a college just open a new robotics lab?

"You don't have to take copious notes," Rexford said. "But if you remember to jot down two facts after you've met with a college (representative) or employer, you'll be in good shape."

And don't be shy about asking for contact information. You may learn about job shadow opportunities or summer STEM programs aimed at high school students. Admission officers can help you plan a campus visit.

Students should consider writing thank you notes to college reps or other exhibitors who were especially helpful, Rexford noted.

"The fair is a first step," she said. "Schedule a tour or send an email to keep the conversation going."

Student Notes

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