



# Connect with STEM 2015-2016

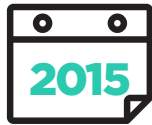
A review of our impact in the classroom

## Why did we do this?

There is a 36 percentage point gap between children from families with low incomes and their aspiration to attend college and their expectation for it to happen, versus a gap of only 14 percentage points among children from families with high incomes. We wanted to change that.

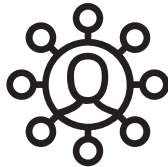
We built Connect With STEM with the purpose to increase a child's aspiration to attend college and pursue a STEM pathway by introducing students to a wide range of individuals with diverse scientific careers and journeys.

## How did we do this?



Founded CWS in May 2015

Built engaging **online platform** and fostered robust social media following, with hundreds of likes and followers supporting the Connect With STEM movement:



Selected 8 **Connectors**



Identified 8 initial **partner schools**

## What happened?

**September 2015–June 2016**

CwS Connectors brought seven unique institutions to our partner schools, resulting in over 500 total hours of engagement between students at partner schools and our speakers:

**7 Unique Institutions**

Caltech



**11  
Confirmed Sessions**

**500**

**Total Student Hours**

1 student hour = the time spent by a student engaging with a CwS Speaker



---

## What did we learn?

- There is a pressing and currently unmet challenge facing educators in 21st Century classrooms that represents the gap between the delivery of a static STEM curriculum and an engaging experience that realistically conveys what is currently happening, and needed, in pure and applied research. **Connect With STEM was seen as one way to address this gap.**
- Without appropriate incentives and accountability processes in place (on both sides), the shared commitment between a volunteer network and a partnering school can easily become de-prioritized.
- An individual or a school signaling interest in participating in Connect With STEM was not necessarily predictive of the program being as successful as expected.

---

## What's next?

Connect With STEM is moving away from the volunteer network model described above and is engaging in more programs with individual organizations.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact us directly at [info@connectwithstem.com](mailto:info@connectwithstem.com).

---

## Who was talking about us?

### **Scientific American**

<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/voices/bring-science-to-life-to-boost-students-interest-in-stem/>

### **Clayton Christensen Institute**

<http://www.christenseninstitute.org/can-outside-experts-fit-into-classrooms/>

### **Black Girls Code x CWS - Women of Color in STEM Panel**

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-girls-code-ny-x-connect-with-stem-woc-in-stem-career-panel-school-readiness-supply-giveaway-registration-17953306824>

### **Silicon Harlem - Next Generation STEM panel**

<http://www.siliconharlem.net/2015-conference-summary/>

### **NYC STEM for Girls Collaborative Feasibility Study**

Generously supported by The New York Community Trust

### **21st Century STEM: Integrate to Innovate conference**

<https://stem.sfaz.org/?NSC16>

### **Standard Chartered Presents: De-Coding the Gender Divide**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/standard-chartered-presents-decoding-the-gender-divide-tickets-21116195108>

### **Science (as) Culture**

<http://ligoproject.org/science-as-culture/>