



FAQ'S & FACTS SHEET

on Arkansas STEM Statistics

Summer 2016

WHO ARE WE?

The Arkansas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Coalition is a statewide partnership of business, education, government and community leaders. The Coalition plans, encourages, coordinates and advocates policies, strategies, and programs supportive of excellence in STEM, in order to expand the economy of Arkansas and produce higher paying jobs.

WHAT IS STEM?

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. STEM-focused education is the platform for building a high-skilled, innovative workforce for Arkansas through increased academic emphasis on mathematics and science.

WHY IS STEM SO IMPORTANT?

STEM is everywhere - from the manufacturing plant to agriculture to small businesses. Every Arkansan needs a strong foundation in science and mathematics accompanied by familiarity with their applications to engineering and technology to be productive citizens and economic contributors. Some of the most rapidly

Median earnings in Arkansas STEM jobs are:

\$30.63 /hour

Median earnings in Arkansas all other jobs are

\$15.42 /hour

expanding job prospects for young Arkansans are in the STEM fields. STEM-focused education is important because it cultivates student

thinking from simple everyday science, mathematics, and technology components into more complex levels of critical thinking and problem solving. STEM professions are increasingly in demand to meet the needs of our state economy, which is rapidly shifting to focus on information technology, advanced manufacturing, and bioscience.

DID YOU KNOW?

Business leaders in Arkansas have sounded an alarm! Arkansas employers find it difficult to recruit the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent they need to stay competitive.

The Arkansas STEM Coalition receives education license plate funds from the Arkansas Committed to Education Foundation. In the past 4 years, the STEM Coalition has distributed over \$511,000 to the 12 Arkansas STEM Centers to purchase science and mathematics equipment which reached 33,155 students in grades 3-6.

In the spring of 2016, the STEM Coalition distributed federal Carl Perkins funds from the Arkansas Department of Career Education to the Arkansas STEM Centers. This allowed them to implement 12 STEM Girls Leadership Conferences statewide. More than 720 girls in grades 10-12 participated in learning about robotics, engineering, nanoscience, biotechnology, and science careers.

The Arkansas STEM Centers also provided teacher professional development. The equipment is used by students as a science or mathematics laboratory with hands-on learning situations and problems to develop a deeper understanding of mathematics and science concepts in life, earth, and physical science.

Arkansas STEM Coalition

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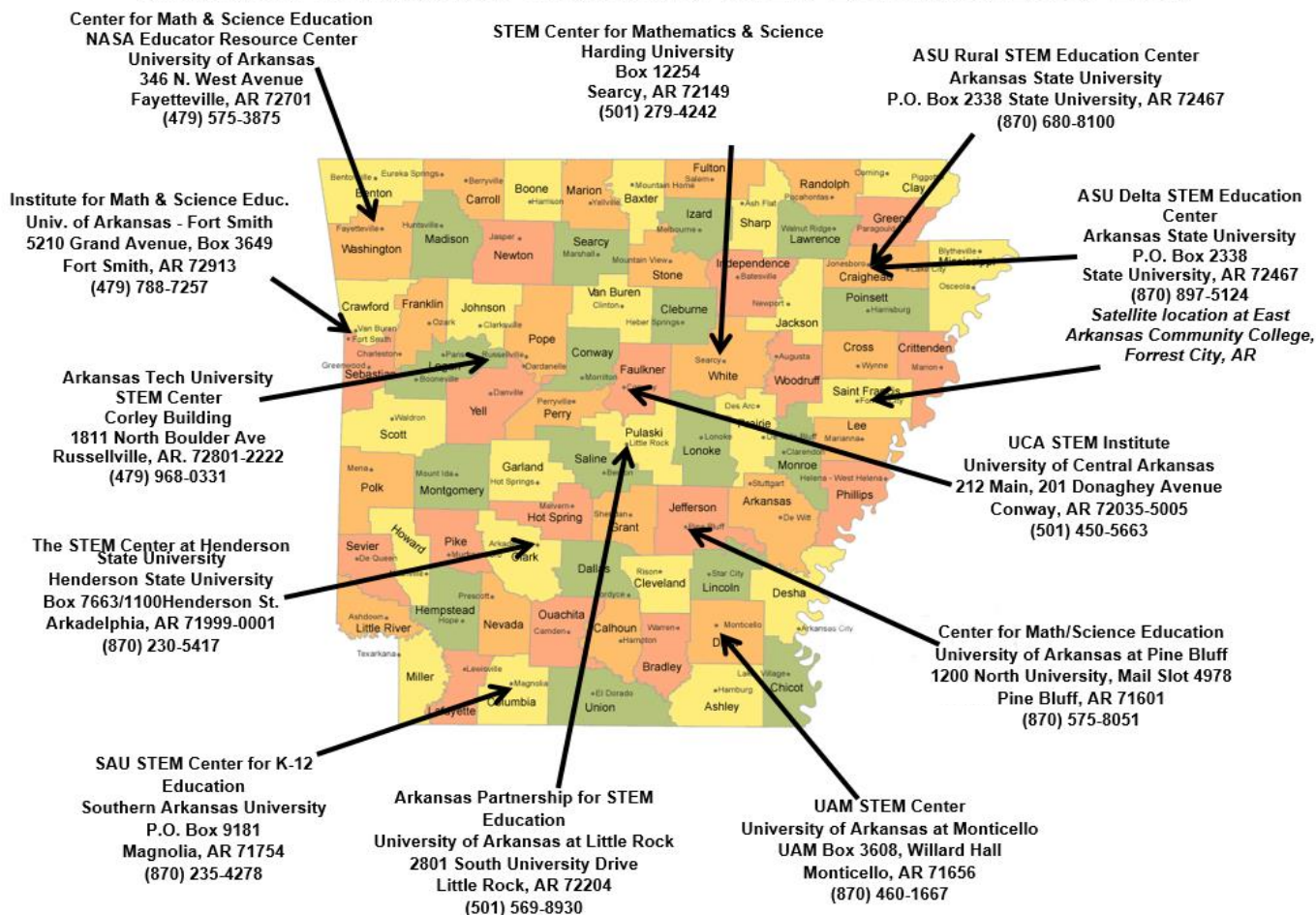


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Arkansas Network of Centers for STEM Education 2016-2017



2016-17 Arkansas STEM Center Objectives:

- Provide professional development opportunities for classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators.
- Strengthen the skills and preparation of pre-service teachers.
- Increase collaboration between the Schools of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Education at institutions of higher education.
- Contribute to improving student achievement in mathematics and science.



- Assist schools in curriculum, instruction and assessment improvements and reform.
- Foster partnerships with school districts in order to provide technical assistance.
- Promote collaboration and coordination of activities with the Educational Service Cooperatives.
- Support high quality mathematics and science education in the state.
- Coordinate with the Arkansas Department of Education in school improvement efforts.
- Serve as resources for mathematics, science and technology materials.

