



Tri-County
STEMersion 2023

BERKELEY • CHARLESTON • DORCHESTER





What is STEMersion?

Tri-County STEMersion is a unique immersive experience designed to help bridge the gap between education and workforce.

Bringing local area educators together to learn first-hand the needs of established regional industry creates an opportunity to directly influence the labor pipeline of tomorrow.

Teachers will spend time outside of the classroom, on the manufacturing floor and in discussions that will aid in the creation of curriculum for implementation back into schools. The STEMersion experience creates an impactful and eye-opening opportunity to discover skill needs within our own community and develop resources to help influence the next generation.

Educators will ultimately be able to guide students into a vast field of opportunity while meeting the needs of local industry.

Who are we?

Founded in 2018 by the Dorchester Economic Development Corporation and the SC Department of Commerce, the STEMersion Planning Committee has evolved to include the united support of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties' Economic Development offices.

After starting out with just over one dozen interested teachers, and surviving a virtual Covid year, STEMersion has now successfully completed it's sixth Institute year while also simultaneously hosting a pilot Student Camp.

With continued growth in sight for the STEMersion program the expansion of the planning committee will look to include more representation from each school district, workforce resources, and industry leaders.

How it works

Applications to participate become available online at the start of each calendar year. Preference is given first to Title I applicants followed by an equal opportunity to teachers across all three counties.

The option to assist the operations of the program as a STEM Ambassador is available to interested returning participants.

During the STEMersion Institute, educators are broken into sessions designed specifically for teachers and counselors. Each session is packed full of company presentations, on-site tours, panel discussions, and hands-on activities to help engage instructors and provoke the creation of STEM-based lesson plans.

All participants are required to produce curriculum based on industry presentations to help solve the STEM and soft skill needs that exist in local schools.

Projects are presented at the end of each session and judged by a panel of education leaders and industry executives. All projects are made available for use and implementation back into the local school system.



"I learned about local companies I didn't know existed. I also learned about the many employment opportunities for the inexperienced. What was most shocking was that 20% of local high school graduates had no plans post-graduation."

**- 2023 PARTICIPATING
EDUCATOR**

Key Accomplishments

As grants have become more widely available, and the importance of students in STEM continues to be recognized, the STEMersion program continues to see annual success.



01. Industry Participation

More than 32 local industries supported STEMersion in 2023 through a variety of opportunities including on-site tours, hands-on demonstrations, panel discussions, and keynote presentations. Industries included Boeing, Kion, W International, Urban Electric, Volvo, and Trident Medical Center.



02. Expanding Reach

STEMersion annually sees an increase in participation with more than a 102% spike in total attendance for 2023 over 2022. Potential skills reach is calculated based on the number of students and teachers each participant can directly impact in their school(s). The available reach for 2023 totals more than 14,000 area students.



03. Pilot Student Camp

In 2023 a STEMersion Student Camp was produced to test drive the STEMersion experience on rising 9th and 10th graders. The ability to introduce students directly to local career opportunities furthered the exposure of skill needs and awareness of the STEMersion mission.

Measuring Progress

Annually, participants are expected to complete an evaluation to gauge their knowledge of STEM skills and local career opportunities. The assessment is administered both prior to and at the conclusion of their elected sessions.

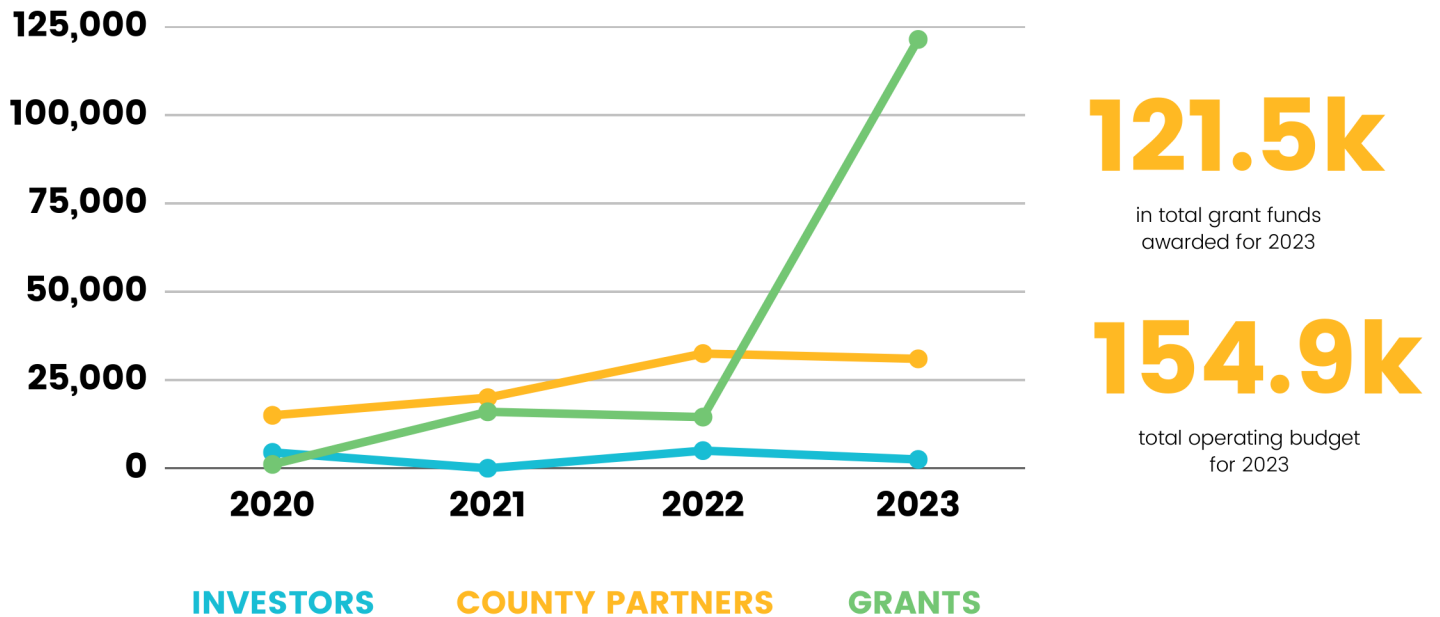


Participation	Industries	Data / Outcome
Of the 55 educators participating in the 2023 Institute, 38 represented Title I schools	32 industries contributed to sessions through a variety of in-person presentations	W International, Kion, and SC Ports Authority were rated as the most impactful industry presentations in 2023
The pilot student camp saw more than 92 applications and hosted 39 students	Campers visited 3 companies on-site while educators toured 8 industries	Familiarity with local industries increased by more than 94% for all participants
12 participants from 2022 returned as Ambassadors for 2023	A total of 124 individual industry leaders presented during 2023 sessions	98% of Institute participants would be interested in returning in 2024

Financial Summary

In addition to commitments made by each county's economic development office, STEMersion operates largely due to grant funding. A handful of private investors also support the workforce development initiative each year through sponsorships and in-kind gifts.

Financial supporters for 2023 included: Google, SC Power Ed, Trident Technical College, Bosch, Volvo, SC Ports Authority, ICL Group, and Walmart.



Expenses for the STEMersion program can be grouped into 5 primary categories:

- Recruitment & Outreach - on-location school presentations to enhance exposure
- Marketing & Promotions - website development, advertising, print and displays
- Event Supplies - includes meals, rentals, and hands-on lesson planning materials
- Transportation - buses are required to transport attendees to and from site tours
- Stipends - educators receive a stipend for their time and lesson plan contributions

737%

increase in Grant funding for 2023 thanks to an additional \$107,000 in commitments.

What They're Saying

Don't just take our word for it.
Here's what participants from each of our sessions had to say
about their experience in the 2023 STEMersion program.

Institute participants were area teachers and counselors

- Educators play an important role in informing students about opportunities. STEMersion provided the tools needed to help my students that are struggling learners. I am in a better position to give them information to help them have a successful future.

Teacher, Fort Dorchester High

- I learned a lot about the world of business and job opportunities. Also about the soft skills that we all need to learn, and how significant it is for teachers to apply in the classroom. The knowledge I have can have a positive impact in teaching high schools students.

Teacher, Woodland High

Student Camp was a pilot program for 9th & 10th graders

- I learned about all of the different career paths, and how I can start working towards them now.
- There are a lot of opportunities right here in my home town to be successful.

Student, Academic Magnet

Student, Military Magnet

Ambassadors our are returning participants

- I learned a lot about job opportunities for students. As a result of my participation, I feel that I have gained more confidence in my ability to teach STEM in the classroom.

Teacher, Goose Creek High

Next Steps

What's next for TriCounty STEMersion? With the goal to propel the program into recognition as a state and national leader of influencing change in education and labor, STEMersion will work to advance its image and leverage stronger resources for continued success.



01. Engage School Districts

With all three county governments working together, the next crucial step is to bring each school district to the table. A representative, appointed by each district, will be invited to join the STEMersion Planning Committee beginning in 2024.



02. Increase Attendance

Expanding the STEMersion reach is vital to see a greater direct impact in schools and a reduction in the number of students who have no post-graduation plan. In order to accomplish this, the goal to open attendance to 500 educators by 2026 has been set.



03. Elevate Funding

With larger attendance, the need for greater funding will be required to maintain the high quality program experience. An increase in local investors and sponsors to match the annual grant awards will help achieve this target.

Breakdown by Involvement

SITE HOSTS

• SC Ports Authority • Kion • Bosch • SC Aeronautical Training Center • W. International • Boeing • Trident Technical College • Trident Medical Center • Urban Electric • SCRA • ECPI •

PANELISTS

• Scout Boats • Kion • W. International • Bosch • SC Competes • ICL Group • ECPI • Dorchester County Council • Berkeley County • Dorchester Economic Development Board • Berkeley ED • Charleston ED •

PRESENTERS

• SC Council on Competitiveness • Trident Technical College • CRDA • Volvo • SC Dept. of Commerce • SC Ports • Kion • Bosch • W. International • SC Aeronautical Training Center • Low Country Virtual • SC Dept of Education • Boeing • Acutec • Ingevity • Trident Medical Center • ECPI • Urban Electric • Pomega •

RESOURCE FAIRS

• SC Vocational Rehabilitation • ReadySC • NAWIC • Dorchester Two Educational Foundation • Palmetto Community Action Partnership • Trident Technical College • Charleston Metro Chamber • ECPI • SC Future Makers • Maritime Association of SC • SC Student Loan Corp •

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH
ALSTON MIDDLE
ASHLEY RIDGE HIGH
BAPTIST HILL MIDDLE HIGH
BERKELEY HIGH
BURKE HIGH
CANE BAY HIGH
CANE BAY MIDDLE
CHS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHS COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CROSS HIGH
DANIEL ISLAND SCHOOL
DUBOSE MIDDLE
E.B. ELLINGTON ELEMENTARY
EUGENE SIRES ELEMENTARY
FLOWERTOWN ELEMENTARY
FORT DORCHESTER HIGH
GOOSE CREEK HIGH
GREGG MIDDLE
HANAHAN MIDDLE
MARRINGTON MIDDLE, ARTS
MILITARY MAGNET ACADEMY
OAKBROOK ELEMENTARY
OAKBROOK MIDDLE
PHILIP SIMMONS HIGH
RIVER OAKS MIDDLE
ROLLINGS MIDDLE, ARTS
SANGAREE MIDDLE
SEDFIELD MIDDLE
ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
STRATFORD HIGH
SUMMERVILLE HIGH
WEST ASHLEY CENTER, ADV. STUD.
WEST ASHLEY HIGH
WESTVIEW MIDDLE
WILLIAM REEVES ELEMENTARY
WOODLAND HIGH

Acknowledgements

In addition to the numerous financial contributors and the presenting industries who dedicated their resources to effectively produce the annual STEMersion program, the Planning Committee would like to recognize the following for their involvement:

- The SC Department of Commerce
- South Carolina Research Authority
- SC Biz News
- ECPI University
- SC Future Makers
- Howe Hall Elementary

**We thank you for your continued support
in our efforts to bridge education and
the workforce of tomorrow.**

Contact

TriCounty STEMersion
c/o DEDC
402 N. Main St
Summerville, SC 29483

www.tricountystemersion.com
tricountystemersion@gmail.com
@tricountySTEM



@TriCountySTEM **f**   **in**

www.TriCountySTEMersion.com