The National Girls Collaborative Project: Using Collaborative Tools to Increase STEM Engagement for Girls
NGCP Vision

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) brings together organizations that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

www.ngcproject.org
Speed Networking
Speed Networking

• Your Name
• Your Organization/Program & Role
• Resources *(what do you have to share?)*
• Needs *(what do you need to meet your goals?)*
• 2 Minutes Each
• Bring your business card to exchange
• You will need a pen to write down great ideas!
Why STEM?

• STEM is a critical engine for innovation and growth. The STEM workforce accounts for more than 50% of the nation’s sustained economic growth.
• In the next 6 years, there will be 2.4 million job openings in STEM fields

Sources: US Dept. of Labor and Georgetown University, 2011
Best Jobs in America, 2012

- Biomedical Engineer
- Marketing Consultant
- Software Architect
- Clinical Research Associate
- Database Administrator
- Financial Adviser
- Market Research Analyst
- Physical Therapist
- Software Developer
- Occupational Therapist
- Management Consultant
- Optometrist
- Information Technology Consultant
- IT Network Engineer
- IT Security Consultant
Project Goals

1. Maximize access to shared resources within projects and with public and private sector organizations and institutions interested in expanding girls’ participation in STEM.

2. Strengthen capacity of existing and evolving projects by sharing exemplary practice research and program models, outcomes and products.

3. Use the leverage of a network or collaboration of individual girl-serving STEM programs to create the tipping point for gender equity in STEM.
Project Focus 2011-2016

1. Strengthen the capacity of girl-serving STEM programs to effectively reach and serve underrepresented girls in STEM.

2. Increase the effectiveness of Collaboratives by providing professional development focused on sustainability, organizational effectiveness, and shared leadership.

3. Maximize K-12 school counselors’ access to and use of relevant, high-quality resources that increase awareness of barriers to girls’ interest and engagement in STEM.
Current Collaboratives

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Great Plains (ND, SD)
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Michigan
- Mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, VA)
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- New Hampshire/Vermont
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pacific Northwest (AK, HI, ID, OR, WA)
- Pennsylvania
- Southern New England (MA, RI)
- Texas
- Tennessee
- Wisconsin
NGCP Impact

- **45,181,614** visits to the NGCP Web site in 5 years
- **3,660** programs are listed in the online NGCP Program Directory
- **33,583** participants served in **236** mini-grants completing activities
- **18,300** practitioners have been served through events and webinars
- **7,221,024** girls are served indirectly by NGCP by having their leaders trained in the philosophy, knowledge, and methods of NGCP
Model Components and Activities

- Project Website
- Program Directory
- E-Newsletter
- Collaborative Events: Conferences, Forums, and Webcasts
- NGCP Webinars
- Incentives to Collaborate: Mini-Grants
- Leadership Teams
- National and Regional Champions Boards
- Network Projects: WaterBotics, FabFems, SciGirls, Techbridge
NGCP Website

Advancing the Agenda in Gender Equity
Encouraging girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

FIND
A Collaborative in your Area.

SUBMIT
Your Program to our Directory.

CONNECT
With Resources and Partners.
E-Newsletter

National Girls Collaborative Project

Events
Resources
Collaborative News
Mini-Grants

NGCP Updates

New Mexico, Missouri and Colorado Kick-Off Events! Congratulations to the New Mexico Girls Collaborative in C-STEM, Missouri Girls Collaborative STEM Initiative and the Colorado Collaborative for Girls in STEM for their successful Kick-Off events. A few highlights: New Mexico featured many great speakers including a girl panel that provided a young female voice for computing and STEM. Missouri’s Kick-Off Conference was held in collaboration with the Missouri School Age Community Coalition’s annual Professional Development Institute and included a variety of STEM-specific workshops with a networking dinner. Colorado featured keynote speaker Violeta Garcia, STEM Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Education and a hands-on design challenge where participants worked in teams to build the tallest tower out of 20 index cards and masking tape that could support weight on top.

NGCP Webinar: Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Role Models to Inspire Girls in STEM
January 23, 2012; 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pacific

In honor of National Mentoring Month in January, presenters from Techbridge and FabFems will discuss how to effectively provide role models and mentors for girls, including strategies for recruiting, retaining and involving professional volunteers. Participants will experience interactive activities, resources, testimonials stories that will help craft meaningful experiences that dispel stereotypes and inspire girls.
NGCP Events
NGCP Webinars

Webinar Archive

The NGCP works to strengthen the capacity of existing girl-serving STEM projects by sharing research findings and program models. One method we use to achieve this goal is a series of free webinars in which practitioners and researchers from across the country share effective strategies for working with girls in STEM.

You may access the audio/video content and related materials from any of our archived webinars by selecting the webinar title in the list below.

“NGCP provides information regarding all aspects of STEM through newsletters and webinars and keeps up my motivation to strive for higher levels of collaboration. I also seek new relationships and try to capitalize on both regional and national NGCP partnerships. I have found great ideas to incorporate into our programs which have very specific audiences.”

Annual Survey Respondent
Why Collaborate?

Uncoordinated Services

• Collaboration allows for the creation of a higher quality, more integrated experience.
• Collaboration reduces isolation among STEM professionals.

Scarce Resources

• Collaborative relationships increase access to scarce resources.
Why Collaborate?

Increased Capacity

• Collaboration strengthens relationships among organizations, increasing the potential for learning by sharing promising practices.

• Organizations have increased ability to achieve important outcomes and increase impact.
Share Your Collaboration Experience
Collaboration Mash-Up
Best Practices in Successful Collaborations

1) Prepare
2) Look
3) Plan
4) Build
Prepare to Collaborate

• **Reflect** on past collaborations and the characteristics of successful or ineffective collaborations.

• Create a **quick summary** of your program services you can easily share when you first meet potential collaborators.
Prepare to Collaborate

• Identify your program/institutional strengths and challenges.

• Identify the program/institutional resources you have to offer.

• Identify your program/institutional needs.
Look for Collaborators

• Find the “home” of your audience who can benefit from your research findings/program products and services.

• Identify assistance or guides that can help you.

• Network with purpose
Plan for a Successful Collaboration

• Be flexible and patient.

• Be explicit about project benefits for each partner.

• Create a collaboration agreement.
Build a Successful Collaborative Project

- **Communicate** frequently to move the work forward.
- **Adapt** as project personnel, plans, and needs change.
- Celebrate **successes**
- **Debrief** the collaboration.
The FabFems Project

Share your past. Spark a future.
FabFems Website

Role Model Directory: FabFems is a searchable directory of women STEM professionals interested in outreach to girls

Audience:
• Role Models
• Girl-Serving Programs
• Parents and Girls

www.fabfems.org
STEM Role Models

A searchable directory of male and female STEM professionals interested in outreach to youth.

www.stemrolemodels.org
NGCP Evaluation Highlights

- 73% of respondents indicated that their work with their partner had expanded to other projects. Examples included planning another event, extending the program to other locations, sharing information about other STEM opportunities, or finding new ways to work together.

- Annual Survey respondents in 2012 who had participated in NGCP had significantly higher mean levels of collaboration compared to those respondents who had not participated significantly in NGCP. They were also significantly more likely to have higher levels of knowledge about STEM programs in their area, shared resources available, and knowledge of effective practices related to collaboration, engaging girls and underrepresented girls in STEM, and in evaluation and assessment.
How Can You Benefit?

- Collaborative Events
  - Professional development
  - Networking with professionals who share common goals
  - Access to resources and experts in your area
- Program Directory
- Mini-grants
- Online resources
  - Website
  - Webinars – Archived and Live
  - E-Newsletter
  - Collaboration 101 Resources on the Website
Resources

• Program Directory  
  www.ngcproject.org/directory

• Mini-Grant Schedule  
  www.ngcproject.org/mini-grant/schedule.cfm

• Archived Webcasts  
  www.ngcproject.org/resources/webcastarchive.cfm

• Receive the NGCP E-newsletter  
  www.ngcproject.org/resources/newsletter.html
Questions?

Contact Information
Karen Peterson, Principal Investigator
kpeterson@edlabgroup.org