

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 4, 2018

CONTACT:

Aleia De Vore

aleia.devore@tulsastem.org

Office: 918-779-4910 ext. 200

Cell: 704-706-4421

**NATIONAL EXPERTS: FORMING STEM ECOSYSTEMS IS TOP PRIORITY
Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance Ecosystem is a strong example of the collaborative work of
the national STEM Learning Ecosystem Community of Practice**

[Tulsa, Okla.] Acting on recommendations of top national education experts, the federal government Tuesday issued the “*Charting A Course for Success: America’s Strategy for STEM Education*,” listing participation of all Americans in STEM ecosystems as a top priority.

The federal plan, announced Tuesday at the White House, says STEM ecosystems are pathways for improving STEM literacy, ensuring a strong workforce and global competitiveness for all, and an important means to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in a thriving STEM workforce.

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) has already implemented the described ecosystem approach to improving STEM education and access for all, with great local success.

“TRSA is a model for how Community stakeholders come together to ensure that all students and learning platforms in and out of school have the STEM resources and capacities they need. The Tulsa community, with its dedicated and innovative partners, have demonstrated to the now 68 stem ecosystems around the country that with great leadership, passion and vision we can ensure that the next generation of students have all they need to thrive,” said Gerald Solomon, Executive Director of the Samueli Foundation.

STEM Ecosystems, including [TRSA](#), unite stakeholders from a variety of community-based organizations -- including formal and after-school education, higher education, business, government, philanthropy, and the non-profit sector -- to cultivate, innovate and work for common goals and actions surrounding world-class STEM opportunities for all learners.

The federal STEM five-year strategic [plan](#), under development for more than a year, is based on input from numerous stakeholders, including educators, business and community leaders, and representatives from all 50 states who attended a June federal STEM Summit hosted by Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP) at the White House.

The plan identifies three discrete goals: 1) Building strong foundations for STEM Literacy; 2) Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM and 3) Preparing the STEM Workforce for the Future. The plan identifies methods for achieving the goals with the formation of STEM ecosystems as the leading strategy.

These goals align closely with the work of TRSA. Locally, the Ecosystem has developed a math mentorship program that pairs elementary school students with members of the community. Through game-based learning, the students develop numeracy skills while strengthening their peer and adult relationships.

“This pathway focuses on strengthening existing relationships and developing new connections between educational institutions, employers, and their communities. That means bringing together schools, colleges and universities, libraries, museums, and other community resources to build STEM ecosystems that broaden and enrich each learner’s educational and career journey,” the report says.

"It's so wonderful for Tulsa to be a part of what is now a national, and even international, movement around STEM Ecosystems," said Xan Black, Executive Director of the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance. "Working together with cross-sector partners to build broad, deep, and innovative STEM pathways for all students to access high-impact careers is job one for the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance. The collaborative ecosystem effort being heralded by the White House Office of Science & Technology is the way forward for engaging and inspiring tomorrow's innovators."

Jan Morrison, founder and president of TIES - Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM, which designed and continues to lead the STEM Learning EcosystemsSM Community of Practice and who participated in the OSTP Summit, said, “We celebrate the fifty states’ vision and brilliance in focusing this report on the great value of bringing the work of STEM to all through STEM Learning Ecosystems.”

“The design of our communities as STEM Ecosystems ensures that STEM is central to children’s education both in- and out-of-school and that it is inextricably linked to workforce and a lifetime of solving our world’s grandest of challenges.”

About the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance Ecosystem

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) is a non-profit committed to building broad, deep, and innovative STEM pathways for all students to access high-impact careers.

About STEM Learning Ecosystems

STEM Learning Ecosystems build strong collaborations in schools and beyond the classroom—in afterschool and summer programs, at home, with local business and industry partners, and in science centers, libraries and other places both virtual and physical. Ecosystems strive to enable students to connect what they learn at home, in school and out-of-school with real-world opportunities.

About TIES Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM

TIES is dedicated to making STEM accessible to everyone, especially underserved and underrepresented learners. We do this by connecting stakeholders — educators, funders, community organizations, businesses and government agencies — who, through collaborative partnerships, create meaningful and gainful STEM learning experiences. Our team of consultants provides strategic planning support and guides design, training and implementation across all of our services.

Learn more about STEM Learning Ecosystems national initiative at stemecosystems.org. Address specific questions to info@stemecosystems.org. Join online conversations on Twitter [@STEMecosystems](https://twitter.com/STEMecosystems) and [#STEMecosystems](https://www.facebook.com/STEMecosystems) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/STEMecosystems).

Learn more about TIES - Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM’s work with STEM Design, Digital Fabrication and Innovation Labs, STEM Talent, and Philanthropy and Social Impact at tiesteach.org. Join the online conversation on [Twitter @tiesteach](https://twitter.com/tiesteach) and [Facebook /tiesteach](https://www.facebook.com/tiesteach).

###