STEM FOR THE AGES

80% of the fastest-growing occupations in the United States depend upon mastery of mathematics and scientific knowledge and skills, but students are not currently equipped to satisfy this growing need.

ON THE 2009 PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT (PISA), THE U.S. RANKED:

- MATH: 24th
- SCIENCE: 17th

73% of all college students are women and students of color, but they represent only 40% of STEM degrees earned each year.

- COLLEGE STUDENTS: 79%
- WOMEN AND STUDENTS OF COLOR: 45%

WHY IT MATTERS

OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, GROWTH IN STEM JOBS WAS 2X GREATER THAN THAT OF NON-STEM JOBS.

- STEM EMPLOYMENT: 78%
- NON-STEM EMPLOYMENT: 2.6%

- 2000-2010: 2008-2018

WORKERS WHO HOLD STEM DEGREES ENJOY HIGHER EARNINGS REGARDLESS OF OCCUPATION AND WORKERS IN STEM OCCUPATIONS:

- ARE LESS LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE JOB RAINMASTERS.
- COMMAND 25% HIGHER WAGES THAN NON-STEM WORKERS.

99% of STEM school graduates enroll in college within one year of high school while 79% complete college in four years.

WHAT WE CAN DO

Triggering student interest in pursuing more technical fields begins in schools. There are many effective strategies for engaging students and improving their performance in STEM subjects:

- Interdisciplinary project-based learning
- Real-world learning through internships, mentors
- Teachers trained to work in specific STEM disciplines
- Opportunities for college instruction during high school years

EVEN THOSE WHO DO NOT PURSUE WORK IN STEM FIELDS WILL NEED SOME LITERACY IN THESE AREAS IN ORDER TO NAVIGATE ISSUES SUCH AS POLICY CLIMATE, HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY.

STEM KNOWLEDGE EXTENDS BEYOND A CAREER; IT'S KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE.