

STEM STARTER ACADEMY

Statewide

STEM Starter Academy is a state-funded initiative to inform, engage, recruit, retain, and graduate significantly more students in STEM at all 15 community colleges.

Program Goals:

1. To graduate more community college students with STEM degrees and certificates, prepared to enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution.
2. To recruit more students into the STEM pipeline at the community colleges.

For More Information:

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MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

www.mass.edu/stem

At Springfield Technical Community College

*There is strength in DIVERSITY:
Diversity of Students, Diversity of Offerings, &
Diversity of Opportunities*



Summer Bridge

- Over 100 students (newly admitted STCC students, active STCC students, & rising HS seniors) have participated in program, since 2014.
- Classes, field trips, & guest speakers make up the program.

STEM Talks

- One to two speakers each semester, & one or more films per year
- Intent to expose students, STCC community, & greater Springfield community to STEM careers and related issues

Civic Outreach

- Funds STCC students to teach after school robotics classes at Boys & Girls Club of Springfield
- Provides technical assistance to Urban League of Springfield's Be the STEM & the Latino Education Institute of Worcester State University

Support Success

- SSA Scholars & others receive coaching & tutoring throughout year.
- Dedicated SSA study suite for tutoring, individual/group study, & bonding.
- NSF S-STEM grant to fund scholarships

STEM Diversity

- 43.5% female & 56.4% racial/ethnic minority representation during summer bridges (2014 through 2016)
- SSA members helped found STCC chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

"My experiences with SSA, I can say, was phenomenal. The guest speakers were motivating. The staff was really helpful..."

"I feel like I had an advantage over my friends who didn't do anything over the summer."

Student testimonials

"With all the help they provide, I was able to accomplish a lot...Right now, I have 3As and a B. That says a lot about someone who didn't do so well in high school."

"Do it. Don't just sit there and be like, 'Hey, this looks cool,' and not do it. Do it. It's fun."

For more information, contact Felicia D. Griffin-Fennell, Ph.D., Director, STEM Starter Academy, fdgriffin-fennell@stcc.edu, 413-755-4819 OR Robert Dickerman, Ph.D., Dean, School of Science and Engineering Transfer, dickerman@stcc.edu, 413-755-4576.

Statewide

Key highlights from the first two years of the statewide STEM Starter Academy program:

More than **10,000 students**
directly participated

Another **20,000 students**
participated in recruitment events
and information sessions

SSA population reflects the overall demographics
of the community colleges:

12% African American

14% Latino/a

51% Female

SSA students are more likely to
enroll full time
compared to general community college students

75% of SSA students
who completed developmental math in summer 2015
enrolled in college-level math in fall 2015

70% of
degrees & certificates
earned by SSA students are in STEM