

STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2028



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WELCOME MESSAGE

Allison Grabert, Ed.D. Director

I extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you as we embark on an exciting new chapter in the journey of STEM education and innovation in Southwest Indiana. Today, I am thrilled to introduce our latest strategic plan, a dynamic blueprint that will guide us through the next phase of growth and achievement at the Southwest Indiana STEM (SwiSTEM) Resource Center, proudly situated within the thriving community of the University of Southern Indiana.

Since our inception in 2007, we have been dedicated to fostering a deep-rooted passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Throughout our journey, we have forged meaningful partnerships, nurtured educational excellence, and honed the collective talents of our faculty, staff, and partners. As we unveil our strategic plan, we are poised to amplify these successes and take our impact to new heights. (cont'd)





WELCOME MESSAGE CONT'D

Our strategic plan is a living testament to our shared aspirations, reflecting our commitment to creating transformative change in STEM education. Rooted in collaboration and innovation, this plan is a pathway to realizing our vision for students, educators, industries, and communities.

Our strategic plan rests upon four pillars that will shape our path ahead:

- Offering Enriching STEM Outreach Opportunities for Students
- Supporting STEM Educators
- Developing and Strengthening Collaborative Partnerships
- Promoting Equity and Diversity in STEM

As we share this strategic plan, let us acknowledge that it is more than just a roadmap—it is a reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of the entire Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center community. Our collective efforts will shape the future of STEM education, and I am confident that, together, we will achieve remarkable milestones that inspire generations to come.

I invite you to explore the details of our strategic plan, engage with our initiatives, and join us in bringing our shared vision to life. While challenges may arise, they are the stepping stones to our growth and success.

Thank you for your unwavering support, innovative spirit, and commitment to excellence. Together, we will propel the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center to new heights, solidifying its role as a catalyst for transformative change in STEM education and innovation.





VISION

Our vision is to be the driving force behind transformative STEM education in the tri-state region. We strive to inspire a community where STEM knowledge is embraced, creativity flourishes, and diverse individuals have equal opportunities to excel. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative programs, and inclusive practices, we aim to nurture a generation of passionate problem solvers equipped to shape a brighter future for our region and beyond.

MISSION

The Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center is committed to advancing excellence and equity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education within our PK-12 community. Our mission is to inspire and empower educators, students, and families by providing innovative resources, collaborative outreach opportunities, and professional development that foster a lifelong passion for learning and discovery in STEM fields.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



SwiSTEM Equipment Lending Service



Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair



Summer Camps



USI Regional Science Olympiad



USI FIRST LEGO League Challenge





GOAL ONE

The SwI STEM Resource Center promotes an environment of curiosity and critical thinking by offering hands-on, experiential learning outreach opportunities that empower students to learn by asking questions, investigating problems, and developing innovative solutions.



OBJECTIVES

1. Increase student participation in STEM competitions by 150 students per year.
2. Increase SwI STEM participation in summer camps offered by community partners by 5 experiences annually.
3. Increase the number of students participating in on-campus summer experiences by 50 students annually.
4. Increase the number of Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair exhibitors by 10% by 2028.
5. Increase the number of Tri-State Science and Engineering exhibitors who win awards at the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair by 10% by 2028.



GOAL TWO

The SwISTEM Resource Center provides educators with the tools, training, and resources they need to facilitate meaningful STEM learning experiences. Through professional development, curriculum/instructional support, and mentorship, we offer educators avenues to enhance their pedagogical approaches to STEM education.



OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the number of SwISTEM Equipment Lending Service active patrons by 10 patrons or 250 students annually.
2. Increase the number of teacher professional learning opportunities to 5 annually.
3. Secure funding to compensate teachers for their participation in SwISTEM professional development.
4. Increase SwISTEM visibility in the region.



GOAL THREE

The SwI STEM Resource Center cultivates strategic partnerships with schools, educational organizations, community leaders, and industry stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise. By fostering collaboration, we create a dynamic ecosystem that enhances STEM education and connects learners with others to explore real-world applications, and career opportunities and possibilities.



OBJECTIVES

1. Rebrand the SwI STEM logo to emphasize USI's ownership and the university's pledge to community service.
2. Establish a SwI STEM Advisory board.
3. Continue to grow our partnership with the YMCA of Southwest Indiana.
4. Establish one new industry partner annually to support SwI STEM services and outreach programming.
5. Attend USI's Student Teacher Orientation and explore the possibility of research studies involving SwI STEM impact with faculty from the Teacher Education Department.



GOAL FOUR

The SwI STEM Resource Center is dedicated to and promotes inclusivity, equity, and diversity in all of our programs. We work with intention to eliminate barriers and provide equal opportunities for all learners wishing to participate and succeed in the STEM disciplines.



OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the number of under-resourced schools (e.g., Title 1 and rural schools) that utilize the SwI STEM Equipment Lending Service by 15% annually.
2. Increase the number of students experiencing financial hardships participating in SwI STEM outreach events by 15% annually.



SWISTEM CONTACTS

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