

42 U.S. Code § 1862i

STEM education

(a) National advanced STEM education program

The Director of the National Science Foundation (hereafter in sections 1862h to 1862j of this title referred to as the "Director") shall award grants to associate-degree-granting colleges, and consortia thereof, to assist them in providing education in advanced-technology fields and education to prepare the skilled technical workforce to meet workforce demands, and to improve the quality of their core education courses in STEM fields. The grant program shall place emphasis on the needs of students who have been in the workforce (including veterans and individuals engaged in work in the home) and on building a pathway from secondary schools to associate-degree-granting institutions, to careers that require technical training, and shall be designed to strengthen and expand the scientific and technical education and training capabilities of associate-degree-granting colleges through such methods as—

- (1) the development and study of model instructional programs in advanced-technology fields and in core STEM courses;
- (2) the professional development of faculty and instructors, both full- and part-time, who provide instruction in STEM and advanced- technology [1] fields;
- (3) the establishment of innovative partnership arrangements that—
 - (A) involve associate-degree-granting colleges and other appropriate public and private sector entities to support the advanced- technology ¹ industries that drive the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy;
 - (B) provide for private sector donations, faculty opportunities to have short-term assignments with industry, sharing of program costs, equipment loans, and the cooperative use of laboratories, plants, and other facilities, and provision for state-of-the-art work experience opportunities for students enrolled in such programs; and
 - (C) encourage participation of individuals identified in section 1885a or 1885b of this title;
- (4) the acquisition of state-of-the-art instrumentation essential to programs designed to prepare and upgrade students in STEM and advanced-technology fields; and
- (5) the development and dissemination of instructional materials in support of improving the advanced STEM and advanced- technology ¹ and training capabilities of associate-degree-granting colleges, including programs for students who are not pursuing a science degree.

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