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**COSTEMA selected to join transformative national STEM learning initiative**  
*Announcement at US News STEM Solutions*

**(May 19, 2016 – Baltimore, MD)** The STEM Funders Network (SFN) announced today that the newly developed Central Oklahoma STEM Alliance (COSTEMA) has been selected as one of the 10 STEM Learning Ecosystems to join the [STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative](#), a national initiative, initially developed in 2015-16 beginning with 27 STEM Learning Ecosystems communities across the United States.

Led by the STEM Funders Network, the STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative is built on over a decade of National Academy and related research focused on how to cultivate successful STEM collaborations. The selected sites from across the United States have committed to collaborate and share their work towards this common vision.

“These communities have the potential of reaching millions of young people both in and out-of-school with innovative STEM learning opportunities,” said SFN co-chairs Gerald Solomon, executive Director, Samueli Foundation, and Ron Ottinger, Director of STEM Next. “It is an initiative to design the kind of infrastructure that ensures STEM learning is truly ‘everywhere’ and is a top priority for communities supporting youth to develop the skills and knowledge they need for success in a global workforce.”

The initiative is focused on bringing all in and out of school learning platforms together, from PreK through higher education, including the voice of business and industry partners, to ensure that ALL people have equal access and opportunity to succeed in the STEM fields.

“We are thrilled to be included in this national initiative to increase STEM education opportunities in central Oklahoma. COSTEMA has worked to develop a collaborative community of partners, including Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Metro Technology Centers, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Community College, Williams Companies, and a long list of private, nonprofit, and education organizations,” said Adrienne Covington Graham, COSTEMA Executive Director.

“COSTEMA is eager to join this innovative learning community and take advantage of the technical assistance and capacity building to fully launch and implement COSTEMA as a robust STEM Ecosystem, coordinating and aligning Oklahoma City’s metropolitan area rich STEM resources for the benefit for over 100,000 students within Edmond, Oklahoma City, and the surrounding school districts,”  
The 10 communities will join the initial cohort of the national STEM Community of Practice, having demonstrated cross-sector collaborations that deliver rigorous, effective preK-16 instruction in STEM learning in schools and beyond the classroom – in afterschool and summer programs, science centers, libraries, at home and other places both virtual and physical— that spark young people’s engagement, develops their knowledge, strengthens their persistence and nurtures their sense of identity and

belonging in the STEM disciplines, leading to building a vibrant and competitive STEM workforce. As these STEM Ecosystems evolve, a student will be able to connect what they learn in and out of school with real-world learning opportunities, leading to STEM-related careers and opportunities.

The following ecosystem communities were selected to become part of this national STEM Learning Ecosystem:

- Bmore STEM (Baltimore, MD)
- Carbon/Schuylkill/Lucerne Counties Ecosystem (Schnecksville, PA)
- Central NM STEM-H Education Hub (Albuquerque, NM)
- **Central Oklahoma STEM Alliance (Oklahoma City, OK)**
- DC STEM Network (Washington, DC)
- Northeast Florida STEM Hub (Jacksonville, FL)
- Lancaster County STEM Alliance (Lancaster, PA)
- North Louisiana STEM Alliance (Shreveport, LA)
- Omaha STEM Ecosystem (Omaha, NE)
- STEM Hub Downeast (Augusta, ME)

Learn more about the initiative at [stemecosystems.org](http://stemecosystems.org).

**About the STEM Funders Network:** The STEM Funders Network brings together grantmakers working in STEM to learn from one another, leverage their collective resources and collaborate on high-impact projects they could not undertake alone. The vision of the STEM Funders Network is that all U.S. students should have equal opportunity to engage in high-quality STEM learning experiences that will enhance their ability to succeed in a STEM career or other chosen path.

**STEM Ecosystems funding members of the STEM Funders Network include:** [Amgen Foundation](#), [Broadcom Foundation](#), [KDK Harmon Foundation](#), [Overdeck Foundation](#), [Pinkerton Foundation](#), [Samueli Foundation](#), [Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation](#), [Simons Foundation](#), [STEM Next \(Supported by the Noyce Foundation\)](#), and [Tiger Woods Foundation](#).

**About COSTEMA:**

In April of 2015 a diverse group of PK-16 education partners, private and nonprofit organizations, and business and industry partners met to discuss the state of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs in our region. The Central Oklahoma STEM Alliance (COSTEMA) was created from that meeting as everyone in the room agreed to create more opportunities for students in our service area (Metro Technology Centers and Francis Tuttle Technology Center districts).

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