



Action Hub Description

STEM Education

Chair Organization: National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE) | [STEM Working Group](#)

Problem Statement: Higher education faces growing challenges in communicating the value of science and research to the public, protecting academic freedom, and advancing a shared national vision for scientific literacy and democratic engagement. Political pressures have constrained teaching and research on critical topics, creating tension between institutional aspirations and external mandates. At the same time, there is a need for coordinated leadership, common messaging, and collaboration among scientific societies and higher education organizations to strengthen STEM education and reinforce the role of science in a healthy democracy.

Purpose: Strengthening undergraduate STEM education by protecting students' freedom to learn and participate in research, including inquiry that explores controversial topics, and supporting faculty members' ability to teach and freely engage in research in their areas of expertise. Grounded in decades of STEM education research and teaching, the Hub also seeks to improve university cultures and classroom experiences to ensure that all students, faculty, and staff have fair opportunities to learn, thrive, and contribute.

Goals:

- Partner with democracy-focused organizations to develop a voter/policy guide related to current STEM topics with global and regional impact on the lives of students, so they can better understand the federal and state policy environments that are affecting their futures.
- Develop better and more relevant messaging regarding the importance of science and science learning to a democratic society that will reach stakeholders outside higher education.
- Participate with others in the Alliance to develop the Blueprint for Higher Education and Democracy's Campus 2036.
- Build an institutional leadership guide that helps college and university leaders to balance internal transformation goals with those imposed externally.
- Bring together a coalition of scientific societies, higher education associations, and individuals focused on STEM education to launch and sustain coordinated national initiatives to transform science education into a force that empowers students and builds civic capacity.