Grantee Name: Battelle Education (Tennessee STEM Innovation Network)
Grant Contract Edison Identification Number: 66435
Term of Grant Contract: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
Total Grant Amount: $2,567,143 (Carryover into 2020 - 2021: $216,700)

PROJECT SUMMARY
Battelle Education has continued its management and support of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN). The TSIN is a public-private partnership between the State of Tennessee and Battelle that was established by Executive Order of the Governor in 2010 and serves as the central management structure for working with schools, regional teams, industry partners, and other supporting organizations actively involved in furthering STEM educational opportunities in Tennessee. The TSIN works collaboratively with the Tennessee Department of Education to ensure alignment to the state’s STEM strategy and dissemination of STEM funded activities and their outcomes.

In addition, Battelle Education, through the TSIN:
• Works collaboratively with Tennessee STEM businesses and institutions such as the University of Tennessee, the University of Memphis, Dyersburg State Community College, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities in direct support of education initiatives aligned to support the development of great teachers and leaders
• Shares promising practices and exchanges successful models with other state STEM networks through STEMx, a national network of state-level STEM networks
• Provides technical assistance to the network’s seven regional STEM innovation hubs and designated schools to connect them with peer organizations focused on similar goals, objectives, and innovative practices
• Coordinates with the Tennessee Department of Education to develop joint messaging strategies around STEM education in an effort to align programs and mutually beneficial outcomes

1 COMMON GOAL: STEM FOR ALL.

19,257 Unique page views to online STE(A)M Hub Resources
8,415 Middle School students engaging with STEM career awareness program
214 Graduates from Leadership Training Program
11,328 Students impacted by rural teacher training
673 Educators participating in Hub STEM Training Workshops
22 New Designated STEM Schools

TENNESSEE STEM STRATEGIC GOALS

- Increase student interest, participation, and achievement in STEM
- Expand student access to effective STEM teachers and leaders
- Reduce the state’s STEM talent and skills gap
- Build community awareness and support for STEM
STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATION

The Tennessee STEM Designation process recognizes schools that promote rigorous, transdisciplinary and experiential learning opportunities for all students. In Spring 2020, the Tennessee Department of Education, in conjunction with the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and Tennessee STEM Leadership Council awarded STEM Designation to 22 geographically and demographically diverse schools across the state. Schools that were awarded 2020 Tennessee STEM School Designation received a generous stipend in the amount of $10,000 to support the expansion of STEM education initiatives from Governor Lee’s Future Workforce Initiative.

**Designation Interest Across Tennessee for the 2019-2020 Academic Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Interest Form Submission</th>
<th>Completed Applications</th>
<th>Designated Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESIGNATION TIMELINE**

**SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER**
- Schools completed self-assessment
- Initial phone interviews with school leads to determine readiness to apply
- Schools created portfolio applications highlighting artifacts for each of the STEM attributes

**JANUARY—FEBRUARY**
- Tennessee Designation Review Team reviewed portfolio applications
- Determined which schools were invited to move forward in the application process

**FEBRUARY—MARCH**
- TSIN conducted on-site observations for each school that moved forward to the second stage of the application process

**APRIL—MAY**
- TSIN made recommendations to the Tennessee Department of Education
- Tennessee STEM Designation Awards at the Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit

**THE 2019-2020 STEM DESIGNATED SCHOOLS INCLUDE:**

- Ashland City Elementary School – Cheatham County Schools
- Bradley Academy – Munfretabob City Schools
- Cleveland High School – Cleveland City Schools
- Eima Siegel Elementary School – Multistem City Schools
- Harrison Elementary School – Hamilton County Schools
- Houser-Mick School – Hamilton County Schools
- Kenwood High School STEM Academy – Clarksville Montgomery County Schools
- Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering – Shelby County Schools
- Middle Georgia Middle School – Rock County Schools
- Mount Pleasant Elementary School – Maury County Schools
- Mount Pleasant Middle School – Maury County Schools
- Mount Pleasant High School – Maury County Schools
- Normal Park Museum Magnet – Hamilton County Schools
- Paducah High School – Paducah Special School District
- Patrick Henry Elementary School – Roane County Schools
- Portland East Middle School – Sumner County Schools
- Pope John Paul II High School – Private
- Randolph Howell Elementary School – Maury County Schools
- Red Bank Elementary School – Maury County Schools
- Red Bank High School – Hamilton County Schools
- Sequoyah High School – Monroe County Schools
- Waterville Community Elementary School – Bradley County Schools
- Waterville Community Elementary School – Bradley County Schools

**OUTCOME:**

In the 2019-2020 academic year, Battelle Education, through the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN), made available Everfi’s Endeavor for all middle school students in the state of Tennessee. The Endeavor program consists of six online modules that expose students to STEM careers through games and virtual design challenges. As students progress through the modules, they collect career cards aligned to their interest and skills, building a career interest portfolio that can be accessed by parents, teachers and school counselors to inform high school course selection. This past academic year, Everfi connected with 1,199 Tennessee educators, conducted 32 school-based trainings, engaged 17 district offices in professional development and participated in 6 regional or state conferences to market the product. More than 100 schools were active on the platform, with a total of 8,415 Tennessee students completing 26,000 modules and engaging in 8,638 hours of STEM-focused learning.

In addition, Battelle Education contracted with Thinking Media Inc. to make its platform, Learning Blade, available to middle school students across the state. Learning Blade is a supplemental STEM career awareness curriculum that emphasizes the benefits of STEM careers, demonstrates the relevance of academic skills to future careers, and provides real-world examples of the use of math and ELA skills in practical situations.
The Grantee, through TSIN, shall implement STEM leadership training and professional development in all STEM Innovation Hub regions.

**OUTCOME:**

Battelle Education, through the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, expanded opportunities to sharpen leadership and STEM skills through professional development in all regional STEM Innovation Hub areas. Each hub was sub-granted funds to provide professional development for the state’s teachers during the summer 2020. In totality, 21 professional development workshops were conducted by the TSIN regional STEM Innovation Hubs, with 673 K-12 educators from 71 districts participating, impacting more than 35,000 students statewide. Hub workshops varied in duration, audience and topic based on the needs of the region being served. Experiences were varied, from teacher technology training to networking and resource introduction to student-centered camps and explorations of STEM careers in Tennessee and programs of study at Technology Centers and 2-year and 4-year institutions around the state. They were offered after school hours in the evenings and on weekends on dates spread throughout the school year calendar and beyond.

The TSIN also continued the Innovative Leaders Institute (ILI) for a sixth consecutive year. The 2019-2020 cohort consisted of 56 leaders from 25 schools in 15 school districts plus one charter and one private school. For the first time this year, they were joined by two district-office level supervisors and four new districts that had never had a school team participate. The ILI is a year-long training and mentoring experience for educators that is led by sitting principals currently directing some of the most innovative schools in the state. The ILI provides participants opportunities to network with other building-level leaders to construct a cadre of innovative thinkers and leaders, visit innovative schools to examine different models of STEM integration, and share best practices and resources with the expectation of immediate impact. An emphasis is placed on experiences and training aligned with attributes listed in the state’s STEM School Designation rubric to encourage pursuit of designation. Participants in the ILI are required to submit competitive applications that must include a building-level team of a principal or assistant principal and a lead teacher to strengthen the impact of the ILI on their respective schools. The ILI is approved for 30 hours TASL credit by the TDOE. This year’s participants bring the total who have experienced this learning to 214 across the state.

The ILI program has run long enough now for a pattern to evolve that points to at least partial cause and effect in successful pursuit of STEM Designation. For example, in this year’s cohort five schools participating also successfully achieved STEM Designation in the 2019-2020 academic year. We continue building an experience that leads schools toward the Governor’s goal of expanding the number of STEM Designated schools statewide.

In addition, TSIN continued offering professional development opportunities to teachers, counselors and administrators in schools serving grades K-8 to raise awareness of the state’s adopted Digital Readiness Standards for Computer Science in those grades. More than 210 attempted the courses offered in grade- and job-specific bands of K-2, 3-5, 6-8, Counselor and Administrator; the completion rate was just over 83% with 176 completing their course by the end of the summer.

The network also worked to firmly establish itself as the state’s sole regional partner with the international coding giant, CODE.org, after being a co-partner with the Tennessee Department of Education the previous year (2018-2019). In 2019-2020, 26 more teachers earned the Computer Science Employment Standard for Tennessee by completing the entire year-long cohort program in Computer Science Discoveries and Principles.

Lastly, TSIN continued to offer customized professional development opportunities across the state to school staff when requested through the network website. Before schools closed across the state in March, staff had already presented nine different sessions at schools from Kingsport to Millington. More can be found about Digital Readiness Training and Code.org efforts in the Workforce Initiative Expansion Funds section and about the professional learning opportunities in the Additional Milestones section.
The Grantee, through TSIN, shall facilitate the establishment of two additional STEM innovation hubs—a physical hub to be located in Northwest Tennessee (established 2015) and a hub specifically dedicated to serving the rural areas of the state.

OUTCOME:
The TSIN established a regional STEM innovation hub in Northwest Tennessee and commissioned a rural needs analysis to inform the establishment of a hub specifically dedicated to serving the rural areas of the state during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

TSIN partnered with the University of Memphis’ Center for Research in Educational Policy to evaluate the TRSC; here’s what we’ve learned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
<th>TEACHERS</th>
<th>COMMUNITY PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>74% now know more about local STEM job opportunities</strong></td>
<td><strong>100% felt the program provided the tools to make an impact in their community, after participating in this program</strong></td>
<td><strong>100% reported that working with teachers to create opportunities for students to learn more about local STEM fields was... fulfilling, meaningful, a good use of my time...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>86% think STEM will help them better prepare for the future</strong></td>
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PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn from each other
- Reduce educator isolation
- Leverage funding opportunities
- Increase collective impact
- Advance STEM learning access and equity for rural students across Tennessee

In 2017-2018, the TSIN scaled lessons learned and launched the Tennessee Rural STEM Collaborative (TRSC), a virtual hub designed to develop teacher leadership capacity, strengthen innovative instructional strategies, and provide a collaborative network for educators in rural areas.

We engage with rural educators and their communities in a variety of ways: personalized learning, sharing resources, professional development, partnership development and engagement, and STEM advocacy. Each participant planned a targeted STEM initiative to pilot in their local context and were provided a stipend to support implementation.

Expanded implementation of the TRSC provided the opportunity for educators across Tennessee to learn STEM best practices, develop a comprehensive network of educators and community partnerships, and implement a targeted STEM initiative in their home community. Example initiatives included the planning of district-wide STEM nights, partner-supported instructional units, and work-based learning activities for students. In all, these initiatives impacted Tennessee students by exposing them to 21st century skills, STEM tools and technologies, and local STEM career pathways.

![2019-2020 Rural STEM Collaborative Reach](image)

**8,895 STUDENTS IMPACTED IN 2018**

**9,311 STUDENTS IMPACTED IN 2019**

**11,328 STUDENTS IMPACTED IN 2020**
Code.org Regional Partnership
Expanding equitable access to computer science education continues to be a key priority for the Network. The Code.org professional development program supports efforts to expand equitable access to computer science in K-12 schools through a year-long cohort approach for teachers. The Code.org curriculum meets the needs of K-5 educators through Computer Science Fundamentals, 6-10 educators through Computer Science Discoveries, and 6-12 educators through the AP Computer Science Principles course. In 2019-2020, TSIN took over the role of sole regional partner responsible for program implementation after sharing responsibility in 2018-2019 with the Tennessee Department of Education.

The course for K-5 teachers is presented in a standalone, day-long workshop, but the middle and high school courses offer much greater skills development in the content of coding for teachers and consist of a 5-day summer workshop followed by four day-long workshops spread throughout the academic year (scheduled on Saturdays to avoid time out of classes). The Tennessee Department of Education helped incentivize teachers to enroll by creating an Employment Standard, which functions like an additional endorsement recognized within Tennessee for those who complete all nine days of either the Computer Science Discoveries or Principles courses. These were first issued in fall 2019 for the initial group to earn them the previous year, and all 2019-2020 participants received notification of the update within 8 weeks of completing the program in spring 2020.

In summer 2019, 5-day workshops were held in Chattanooga as a central location for all participants. To increase follow-up participation, workshops throughout the academic year were offered in Jackson and Cookeville. TSIN’s recruiting efforts are focused on increasing access to the training for teachers in districts and schools that do not yet have a computer science presence. Participants who completed the year-long Computer Science Discoveries and Computer Science Principles programs also received stipends and classroom materials to further support computer science implementation at their schools.

Expanding STE(A)M Resources
In April 2020, TSIN launched a STE(A)M Resource Hub to support virtual and at-home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic school shutdowns. The resource hub consisted of a 6-week series of challenges for students in grades 3-12, with an emphasis on design thinking, STEM habit development, and career exploration developed by current Tennessee certified educators. Each challenge came with a step-by-step direction guide to ensure an enriching educational experience at home. Students took virtual tours of STEM workplaces and watched video interviews with Tennesseans who have interesting STEM careers. Educators across Tennessee incorporated the daily challenges into their virtual instructional plans. The STE(A)M Resource Hub greatly expanded the audience of the TSIN, with a six-fold increase in website traffic during challenge period. Challenge pages received 19,257 unique page views, and 4,341 social media users directly engaged with posts about our content.

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2020 Digital Readiness Training Survey
Who participated in the survey?
- 240 TCPS teachers
- 30 Code.org Teachers
- 200 Code.org Professional Development Program Participants
- 40 Online Course Participants
- 60 Additional Participants

Survey results:
- 75% of participants feel more confident identifying computational thinking
- 80% of participants felt they had moderate to clear understanding of the computer science content
- 70% of participants thought their students are more likely to develop the following skills, more aligned with the K-12 Computer Science Standards

Digital Readiness: Computer Science Standards Trainings
Building on summer 2019’s pilot workshops to introduce the K-8 Computer Science Standards adopted in 2018 to teachers across the state, new workshops were created to add specific training for school counselors and administrators. Plans were made to present these workshops in person at each of the seven regional hubs across the state in summer 2020; however, responding to COVID-19 conditions required a pivot to a virtual format, and online courses were created on the learning platform Moodle, designed to be completed autonomously within a window for convenience to educators over summer 2020. With more than 210 attempting the courses offered in grade- and job-specific bands of K-2, 3-5, 6-8, Counselor and Administrator, the completion rate was just over 83% with 176 completing their course by the end of the summer.

Out of those who completed the training, 98% had favorable feelings about their confidence in being able to identify computational thinking after this training. From the same group, there was movement from 16% of the participants to 75% who felt they had moderate to clear understanding of the Computer Science Standards following completion of the course.

Designated STEM School Sustainability Grants
Each of the 22 schools that earned Tennessee STEM School Designation for the 2019-2020 academic year was provided a generous grant in the amount of $10,000 to expand STEM educational experiences for students and teachers. A complete list of the schools that received funding is listed on page 3 of this report. There were several newly designated STEM schools in each grand division of the state for the 2019-2020 academic year showcasing strong, state-wide impact and interest in this distinction.
STEM School Designation Landscape Evaluation

TSIN has partnered with Vanderbilt University to conduct a thorough evaluation of the effect of STEM Designated Schools on outcomes for Tennessee students. This longitudinal study will take place over 3 years (2019-2022) and seeks to determine the level of impact STEM school designation has on students, teachers, school culture, and communities. Formative and summative findings will be used to make research-informed decisions and adjustments to greatly improve outcomes connected to student learning, school culture, and educator capacity. Preliminary reports will be available at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Regional Learning Consultants

As demand for professional development presentations increased over the past year, even having a full-time position dedicated to it could not meet the requests. To meet the increased demand for quality STEM-focused professional learning, TSIN onboarded and trained three Regional Consultants dedicated to serving the West, Middle, and East Tennessee grand divisions. Each consultant is a currently licensed Tennessee educator and conducted outreach within his/her grand division and led professional learning workshops for teachers and schools across the state.

When learning moved to online, the consultants provided the creativity and expertise to modify the Digital Readiness Standards training to the online Moodle format and then provided feedback and support to the more than 200 educators who enrolled in the courses. They also provided feedback and support to the 210 who enrolled in the CTE new STEM teacher training course that was deployed as part of the summer virtual CTE Institute. They are currently editing presentation materials so they can deliver the Professional Learning Series presentations from TSIN to staffs across the state in virtual synchronous format. They remain available to be scheduled for presentations either in-person or online to promote STEM learning.

Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit

The sixth annual Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit was scheduled for May 4 and 5, 2020. Unfortunately, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the event had to be canceled for the safety of the participants. The event was planned to feature 40 interactive learning sessions highlighting STEM promising practices in the conference tracks of Underrepresented Groups in STEM, Community Partnerships, School Culture, Innovative Instructional Strategies, and STEM Career Awareness. It was anticipated to be a completely full event with 600 attendees at Nashville's Music City Center. Plans and funds have been rolled over and will be shifted to the 2021 event.

FUTURE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE EXPANSION FUNDS

ENHANCE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION PRESENCE THROUGHOUT TENNESSEE

In alignment with Governor Lee’s Workforce Initiative focus on STEM workers, the TSIN has worked to create a portfolio of supports for districts, schools and teachers to increase visibility of the role of computer science education as part of a quality Tennessee K-12 experience. This focus began in earnest in fall 2019 when several members of TSIN’s staff contributed to the work led by the Tennessee Department of Education to craft recommendations for Tennessee’s PC454 around the future of computer science education in our state.

Regional Learning Consultants

Focus next turned to how to scaffold teachers’ efforts to work across the state as a community of like-minded educators and reduce isolation that is possible to feel when one is the only teacher in a middle or high school with this certification and also to cement the message that all K-5 teachers should be integrating computer science concepts into their instruction. The TSIN coordinated meetings and helped launch a statewide chapter of Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) which successfully got a charter approved, a slate of officers elected, and currently boasts 63 members since forming in April 2020. Realizing the need to identify where teachers currently go for support and information, TSIN also created formal partnerships as an Affiliate supporter of International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), a partnership with Computer Science for All (CS4ALL) as they bring a national computer science summit to Memphis now scheduled for October 2021. Additionally, the TSIN entered a formal agreement as a partner with Girls Who Code, an organization dedicated to recruiting girls and underrepresented minorities specifically into computer science through extra-curricular clubs and curricular support.

Overall, the goal is to offer a comprehensive and visible presence for computer science education as part of the STEM experience for all TN learners.
ADDITIONAL MILESTONES, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

During the 2019-2020 school year, students across Tennessee engaged the Statewide Design Challenge, a partnership between TSIN and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Students were tasked with designing and prototyping an innovative solution to food security in their local region or across the state. TSIN created a digital starter kit, with resources for educators to roll out the challenge with their students. Students presented their solutions to local judges and community members. In total, more than 200 educators registered to receive the digital starter kit.

The Manufacturing and Engineering Externship Program (MEEP), supported by a grant from the Office of Naval Research, places educators in local externships with manufacturing and engineering focused organizations to learn the skills and technologies needed for success in these fields and explore career opportunities. The educators then design a project or problem-based learning unit to support student inquiry. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 MEEP externships were postponed until summer 2021.

TSIN has experienced increasing requests for learning opportunities to benefit teachers and leaders at building and district levels on various STEM education topics.

Falling under the job description of the full-time position added in July 2019 dedicated to professional learning, this series is a menu of six sessions offered to schools with customization. With descriptions available at https://www.tsin.org/professional-learning-series, schools are able to collaborate with TSIN staff to personalize the focus of each presentation to meet the needs of their particular context. All six presentations highlight and examine one or more attributes prioritized in the STEM Designation rubric for schools. There had been nine presentations delivered and another six scheduled when schools shut down in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further development of additional sessions focused on design thinking and leadership are scheduled to be ready for scheduling beginning summer 2021.
### 2020 Excellence Awards Winners

The STEM Excellence Awards are designed to recognize a phenomenal teacher, a leader of a school, a district, or a regional/state organization, and an exceptional advocate for STEM education. Tennessee's recent successes in STEM are due to the combined efforts of exemplary teachers in the classroom, innovative school and district/regional leaders, and advocates that place STEM on the top of their priority list. The STEM Excellence Awards seek to recognize one awardee in each of the following areas: Excellence in STEM Teaching, Excellence in STEM Leadership, Excellence in STEM Advocacy, and the STEM Innovator Award. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, awardees were honored on social media with articles that highlighted each awardee’s contribution to STEM.

**Excellence in STEM Teaching Award**  
Nikki Russell, STEM Teacher, Orchard Knob Elementary, Hamilton County Schools

**Excellence in STEM Leadership Award**  
Tommy Elliott, Principal, Whitehaven Elementary, Shelby County Schools

**STEM Advocate Award**  
Candice Halbert, Founder, Youth Outreach in STEM (YO-STEM) and Scientific Associate at Oak Ridge National Lab

**STEM Innovator Award**  
Dan Caldwell, Senior Manager, Learning Pathways at Nissan

### Visiting Planetarium Program

As an in-kind contribution through its corporate philanthropy focus on STEM education, Battelle Memorial Institute contributed $25,000 to the TSIN to enable the deployment of a visiting planetarium program to rural schools across the state. Billy Hix, Associate Professor of Education at Motlow State Community College, coordinated and led the program’s planetarium visits to 12 rural schools during the 2019-2020 academic year, reaching nearly 2,000 students. Schools selected for visits were geographically isolated, located in high-poverty areas, or lacked the resources for school field trips. During each visit, Professor Hix led a full program related to the study of the solar system, engaging students through standards aligned discussions. Visits scheduled for spring 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic.

### Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) STEM Classroom Grants

In 2019-2020, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated (BVI), a TVA retiree organization, awarded $600,000 in STEM grants to schools across the seven state Tennessee Valley region. Almost 300 applications were received totaling over $1.2 million in requests. Educators applied for grants from $1,000 up to $5,000 to support STEM projects that would spark student curiosity and increase engagement in STEM. Each of the selected projects aligned with one of TVA’s focus areas of environmental and energy exploration, community problem-solving, and economic and career development. In total, 143 schools in 84 districts in 6 states were funded with more than 70,000 students impacted.

### 100kin10

As the designated representative of the Tennessee Department of Education’s STEM efforts related to 100kin10, TDOE’s Director participated in the Partner Summit held virtually in the summer 2020. 100kin10’s mission is “to train and retain 100,000 quality STEM teachers over the next 10 years.” TDOE’s commitment to 100kin10 focuses on the retention of quality STEM teachers, utilizing the network’s outreach to provide professional development and leadership strategies to the state’s educators.

### STEMx

STEMx is a multi-state STEM network developed for states, by states. This grassroots movement provides an accessible platform to share, analyze and disseminate quality STEM education practices and tools across states. TSIN is a founding member state of STEMx and frequently shares Tennessee’s STEM models and practices with a national audience. Participation in STEMx is provided as an in-kind contribution from Battelle and used as a way to infuse promising STEM practices utilized by other states into the work of the TSIN.
In 2017, the TSIN launched the STEM Executive Council to meet twice per year with the objective of engaging leaders to drive a greater collective impact toward advancing STEM opportunities in Tennessee. The Council connects business and education to provide input regarding essential skills that students need to be successful and to work to strengthen partnerships that extend student learning beyond the classroom walls. Executives from leading STEM industries and organizations agreed to charter the Council to more fully advance STEM across Tennessee.