

Industry-Education STEM Alliance

ACTION
PLAN
FOR
JOBS
2015-2017

MID WEST
REGION



Regional Skills
MID WEST
Partnerships for Skills



lcetb



Industry and Education working in collaboration to promote STEM skills and career opportunities across the Mid-West Region

Contents

1

Our Vision

2

Aims & Objectives

3

The How



Our Vision

This innovative, industry led project aims to encourage young people to become engaged and interested in STEM, promote awareness and understanding of the importance and relevance of STEM in everyday life and increase awareness of rewarding career opportunities that exist in the Mid-West region.

The project focus' on empowering teachers and young people to experience and become knowledgeable about STEM skills for life.



Our Vision

Partnership

The STEM Industry & Education Partnership will deliver a programme with LCETB post-primary schools across the region engaging and immersing educators, students and families in STEM experiences, highlighting and increasing the awareness around the importance of STEM, and in particular the career opportunities that exist.

This will be achieved by establishing relationships with STEM enterprise and industry, schools and educators, further and higher-level institutions, and the wider STEM community and thus fostering a culture of collaboration for professional learning in STEM education.

This project involves distributed leadership where managers and all stakeholders linked with the Mid West Action Plan for Jobs and Mid-West Regional Skills Forum, the LCETB and their schools, principals, and teachers are fully immersed and committed to the vision to engage and inspire young people from all socio-economic backgrounds to explore the opportunities of STEM careers and provide experiences of STEM, allowing the younger generations to embrace innovation and transferable skills needed across all life-situations and career paths.

This innovative Industry-Education STEM Alliance pilot project, the first of its kind in Ireland, will lead the way in developing a model and framework that successfully facilitates greater collaboration between industry and education.



Aims & Objectives

Collaboration

This innovative collaboration, has been developed to address and answer the needs of regional employers and educators, in enhancing post-primary school students awareness of STEM with the ambition of increasing by 10% the number of students progressing to STEM-related further or higher education within 5 years.

The initiative seeks to deliver on a regional basis the national skills agenda, ensuring the next generation have the aptitude and awareness to deliver future economic drivers for the region.

Nationally there are a plethora of educational policies and action plans seeking to address such matters, including the Digital Strategy for Schools 2015 -2020; STEM Education Implementation Plan 2017 – 2019; The National Skills Strategy 2025; Creative Ireland; the Action Plan for Jobs 2017; and the Action Plan for Education 2017. This project is delivering a regional action in response to these policies.

The aims and objectives of this STEM Industry & Education Alliance seeks to deliver a learning experience to the highest international standards, equipping learners of all ages and capacities to participate and succeed in a changing world and leading in innovation and a broad range of endeavours; scientific, cultural, enterprise and public service.

This project fosters and strengthens relationships between industry and the education community (schools, teachers, students, parents and further education) across the Mid-West region in accordance with the Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025, which encapsulates the concepts of the strength of relationships and transfer of knowledge between employers, education and training providers, and all sections of society, and the resulting impact on how people are prepared for life and work.



The How

Commitment

- Enhancing relationships between industry, schools and educators, further and higher-level institutions, and the wider STEM community thus fostering a culture of collaboration for professional learning in STEM education.
- The development of a community of practice i.e. developing a community of teachers in a school (Principals, Career Guidance Teachers, STEM Teachers) that are knowledgeable and experts in STEM skills, competencies and careers.
- Develop a culture within participating schools where teachers and students are aware and understand the importance and relevance of STEM to everyday life.
- Encourage students, teachers and parents to get involved in a variety of STEM initiatives led by industry and educational institutions across the region for example Limerick for Engineering, Limerick for IT, the Limerick and Tipperary Festival of Science, Engineers Week, Code Week etc. providing them with experiences of STEM that are informative, engaging and inspire curiosity.
- Enhance the involvement of the wider school and education community i.e. parents/guardians and families are also key to the success of this initiative in developing an informed, engaged community and society from all socio economic backgrounds.
- CPD (Continuous Professional Development) for Career Guidance and teachers in the STEM disciplines delivered by STEM professionals in a variety of industrial settings. The CPD will focus on competencies and skills requirements in STEM relevant to the needs of learners, society and the economy and thus career opportunities in this area.
- The 'Adopt a schools' strategy will pair industries with schools where students in the schools will greatly benefit from regular 'Meet a scientist/engineer/mathematician/IT expert' visits (in their schools and on-site visits to industry), where the students develop relationships with experts in the STEM area. The development of such non-threatening and informal meetings will help develop confidence to explore the opportunities and possibilities available in STEM education and careers.