Aim of the ITEST Program

Ensure a high-quality STEM workforce by supporting projects that:

- Increase student awareness of career opportunities in STEM and cognate fields.

- Motivate students to pursue appropriate educational pathways to STEM-related careers.

- Provide technology-rich experiences that develop disciplinary knowledge, practices, and non-cognitive skills needed in STEM fields.

STEM Workforce & Cognate Fields

- Traditional STEM Disciplines
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Computing, Computer Sciences, Data Analytics, and related fields.
- Professionals at all levels, including technicians, technologists, scientists, engineers, computer scientists, and mathematicians.

ITEST Projects…

- Must involve students.
- Are informed by relevant research.
- Will focus on workforce development for youth or school-to-work transitions.
- Will conduct foundational or design-based research of conditions and contexts that improve student STEM learning pathways and STEM-focused career preparations and mentorships.

ITEST is especially interested in…

- Broadening participation of student groups underrepresented in STEM-related education and career domains.

- Projects that examine the effectiveness of adult volunteers with relevant disciplinary expertise.

- Projects that improve students' critical thinking skills that transfer across disciplines and into career settings.

- Projects that directly involve students with business and industry through partnerships.

"Encouraged" are Projects that…

- Bring together researchers in STEM education, STEM disciplines, career development, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and related fields.

- Engage students in use of cutting-edge technological tools, the computer sciences, or innovative applications of technology for work/problem-based learning.

Two Types of Projects Supported

Strategies projects that address the creation and implementation of innovative technology-related interventions.

- ➢ Awards of up to $1,200,000 for projects lasting up to 3 years.
- ➢ Approximately 15-20 projects to be supported.

SPrEaD (**S**uccessful **Pr**oject **E**xpansion **a**nd **D**issemination) projects that support the wider and broader dissemination and examination of innovative interventions.

- ➢ Awards for up to $2,000,000 for projects lasting 3 to 5 years.
- ➢ Approximately 5-10 projects to be supported.