The Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program was established by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2003 to help ensure the breadth and depth of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce, in direct response to concerns and projections about the growing demand for and current shortages of STEM professionals in the U.S.

The STEM Learning and Research (STELAR) Center at Education Development Center, Inc., in partnership with the Goodman Research Group, Inc., assists ITEST principal investigators (PIs) and evaluators to design, refine, and evaluate their ITEST projects and to effectively synthesize and disseminate project findings.

This data brief explores the partnerships that ITEST projects engage in for project planning and design, implementation, dissemination, and evaluation. This data brief uses the results of the 2017 Management Information System (MIS), which was completed by 107 of the 121 active projects.

Projects value partnerships because they provide

- Interactions with industry professionals
- Hands-on experiences and real-world skills
- Participant mentoring and training
- Program delivery assistance
- Creation of curricula content
- Programming and logistical support

"Partnerships helped...provide access to communities that inspired our youth who had not considered college."

Projects engage with multiple types of partners:

- Schools: 76%
- Colleges/Universities: 74%
- Businesses: 49%
- Not-for-profits: 43%
- Research Organizations: 32%
- Communities: 30%
- Informal Organizations: 29%
- Government: 14%
Projects receive significant **assistance** from partners for their program activities

- **Partnerships helped...**
  - provide the space in a community that historically did not trust research institutions.

32% of projects have partners who engage in **every** category of partnership activities.

87% Infrastructure and Dissemination
84% Program Design
73% Logistical Support
36% Participant Opportunities

Projects work with partners **frequently**

- **44%** Weekly
- **35%** Monthly
- **15%** Quarterly
- **7%** Annually

**Partnerships helped...**
- facilitate data collection and provide consultation related to research designs.

Projects conduct **research** on partnerships’ role in STEM education

- **44%** of projects address **at least ONE** of the four guiding questions on research related to partnerships.
- **4 of 7** NSF 2017 ITEST Guiding Questions explain the role specific partnerships play in:
  - (a) promoting student awareness of, interest in, and capacity to join the STEM workforce;
  - (b) supporting teachers in effective STEM pedagogy.

**Business & Industry** 39%
**Communities** 21%
**School Policy Leaders** 14%
**Career Technical Education** **[**New Question in 2017; no data yet]**