



Promoting STEM Interests and Careers Through Families and Museums Exploring

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Project Overview: This project uses a new model to promote the development of positive attitudes toward STEM and to increase interest in STEM careers. Science capital and family habitus were documented, and the data were used to develop a model program where youth and their families see science and engineering as something they do for fun, where they feel supported and valued, while promoting STEM career awareness, science identity, and an interest in exploring science and engineering beyond the life of the project.

Building science capital and family habitus influences career aspirations for STEM.

Lessons Learned & Insights Gained

The project has: 1) created a profile of family science habitus and science capital for youth across the US, 2) documented the efficacy of a museum program model that develops science capital and family science habitus, 3) developed and validated elementary, middle school, and parent assessments for science career aspirations within and expectancy value framework.

Equity

Theoretical frameworks of science capital, family habitus, and expectancy value theory were used to guide the development of the Family STEM program that was designed to build STEM career awareness, science identity, and an interest in exploring science and engineering for underserved youth.

New Challenges & Next Steps

The project has been highly successful and insightful. In this final year of the project, we are sharing the new assessments, program model and findings.

