

SD STEM Leadership

We are excited to announce that the application window for SD STEM Leadership is now open!

Applications Due April 3, 2026

SD STEM Leadership is a program by South Dakota E-CORE to create and support a dynamic network of South Dakota K-16 STEM educators. SD STEM Leadership challenges, develops and educates South Dakota STEM educators who have an interest in developing leadership skills related to STEM education. SD STEM Leadership is designed around the following goals:

- Build and broaden community through intentional networking.
- Grow professionally and personally by focusing on problem solving, innovation, leadership, systems thinking, change, and efficacy.
- Create a shared knowledge base for leadership, including advocacy, effective instruction, clarity about STEM, and research-based practices.
- Increase awareness of and connections to current STEM research in South Dakota.
- Appreciate that all the above goals are critical to shaping a vision where all students in South Dakota consistently experience rigorous, relevant, and engaging STEM instruction.

Application Process:

Ideal candidates for the SD STEM Leadership Program aspire to grow professionally, challenge their thinking and practice, and be a leader/advocate for effective STEM education. Applicants must teach or co-teach a STEM discipline. This includes teachers who teach any STEM content area (e.g., science, math, computer science) or an integrated one (e.g., STEM) as part of their day. The application process is designed to ensure a cohort that consists of members from a wide range of experiences and geographical locations. Approximately 30 participants will be chosen annually. Preference will be given to applicants with three or more years of experience. *A completed application requires submission of 3 components:*

- **Application** - Due Friday, April 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.
<https://forms.gle/1cLcPjEAk7umdZrq5>
- **Letter of Recommendation** - Due Friday, April 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.
<https://forms.gle/GHizriv9PGra428BA>
- **Administrator Support Statement** - Due Friday, April 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.
<https://forms.gle/zFEMGKZXHRyw8U519>

Program Meeting Dates

Upon selection, participants will be expected to attend all the following meetings:

- Retreat 1- July 27 – 31, 2026, in Pierre, SD
- Retreat 2 – October 17-18, 2026, in Rapid City, SD
- Retreat 3 - February 5-7, 2027, in Huron, SD (optional attendance on Feb. 5 at SD STEM Education Conference)

Costs

The registration cost of SD STEM Leadership = FREE. The SD E-CORE grant is able to cover hotel, mileage, meals and provide a learning stipend for each of the retreats.

For additional questions about the SD STEM Leadership Program, email Nicol Reiner (NReiner@sanfordlab.org) or Kim Webber (Kim.Webber@bhsu.edu).