

STEM FOR ALL

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EPA-RTP's Summer Science Institute Strives to Close the STEM Accessibility Gap

Since its creation in 2011, the U.S. EPA-RTP's free, 5-day Summer Science Institute has reached more than 300 high school students. The 35-hour program emphasizes interactive activities, campus/lab tours, job shadowing, speed mentoring and more. To reduce STEM opportunity gaps and advance environmental justice through education, students from underserved communities receive applications first, and three slots are reserved for students with disabilities. The 2023 Institute hosted 28 students from 19 N.C. schools. More than 46 EPA employees volunteered to lead students in engaging, educational activities on a range of topics such as wildfires, air/water, energy/transportation, climate and sustainability. This presentation will demonstrate how an unfunded, employee-led program helps make STEM accessible to all.

Presentation Target:

High School

Presenter(s):

1. AJ Blackburn, STEM Outreach Program Coordinator, US EPA
2. Kelly Witter, Director of STEM Outreach, US EPA
3. Antonio Leathers, Contract Specialist, US EPA