



Generation STEM

STEM Community Partnerships Program: Key Insights 2021

STEM Community Partnerships Program (CPP) grew considerably in 2021 and was the key program driving Generation STEM's expansion into regional NSW.

Over 10 years, this initiative aims to attract, support, train and retain NSW students in selected school areas in STEM and into further education and employment.

But, what factors influenced students' decisions to study STEM, and how could the program be improved for current and future participants?

What we did

Our Education and Outreach Impact and Evaluation Team collected data from participating students, teachers and industry mentors through 112 student surveys, 165 post-event questionnaires and teacher and industry mentor interviews.

Insights

Based on survey findings, key insights for STEM CPP include:

- **Students indicated that the inquiry-learning project is having the biggest impact on their interest in STEM.** 43% of students surveyed reported that it had made them 'much more interested' in STEM.
- **Students reported a substantial increase in their interest in, and attitude towards STEM.** Students surveyed reported a statistically significant positive change in seven out of the nine outcome statements.

- **Students and teachers reported that STEM CPP has positively impacted students' 21st century skills.** Specifically, 96% of students surveyed reported that STEM CPP has positively impacted their problem-solving abilities.
- **Girls are less likely than boys to report feeling confident about STEM, or to have a desire to work in STEM.** 45% of female students surveyed reported that they wanted to have a job in STEM compared to 62% of male students.

Learnings

Based on survey and interview feedback, key learnings for STEM CPP include:

- potentially tailoring portions of the program to address specific challenges that young women face when pursuing STEM education
- focusing on matching schools with industry mentors earlier, so teachers can more effectively use them as a resource for the inquiry-learning project
- exploring viable options to provide more personalised feedback to students on their work in the inquiry-learning project
- streamlining consent processes.