



2025 Women in STEM Leadership Summit



This Year's Theme: "StrongHER Together/Resilient Together"

Friday, April 11, 2025 – Hybrid - In Person and Virtual

In Person at: Harrisburg University of Science & Technology, UPMC Health Sciences Tower, 222 Chestnut Street, Harrisburg, PA

Time	Topic / Location / Presenter(s)
8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Registration Networking & Refreshments
9:00 AM to 9:05 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Dr. Bilita "Bili" Mattes, <i>Executive Director, STEM-UP Network</i>
9:05 AM to 10:10 AM	STEM Panel Discussion Moderator: Sheri Collins, <i>Strategic Business and Broadband Advisor, McNeese Government Relations</i> Science Panelist: Allyson McCollum, <i>Executive Assistant, Field Operations, PA Department of the Environment</i> Technology Panelist: Terri Bendl, <i>Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Appalachia Technologies</i> Engineering Panelist: Vini Singaravelu, <i>Quality Project Manager, Phoenix Contact USA</i> Mathematics Panelist: Akeisha Belgrave, <i>Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics and Biological Science, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology</i>
10:10 AM to 10:30 AM	Networking Break
Breakout Workshops	10:30 AM to 11:45 AM Breakout 1 - Main Room/Auditorium – <i>Communicate with Warmth and Power</i> Sam Knisely, Moderator Presenter – Dr. Katie Sandoe, <i>Founder and Chief Illumination Officer, Light Echo Co.</i> "Do no harm. Take no crap." Are you ready to own your power? This session will help you identify some of the ways you might be disempowering yourself through seemingly harmless (yet harmful!) speech habits. Together, we'll redefine and reclaim the word "power" and explore what it truly means to own your power as a woman in the workplace and a human being in this world. Walk away with practical steps and a mantra that will help you cultivate an authentic personal brand and show up as a woman who communicates with warmth and power.
	Breakout 2 - Room 211C – <i>Navigating AI and the Future of Work: The Power of a Growth Mindset and Adaptable Thinking</i> Stephanie Zegers, Moderator Presenter - Elisa Basnight, <i>Esq., Founder, WIN-NextGen & Girls Action Network</i> Join us for an engaging conversation during which we will explore how AI is reshaping industries and why resilience, adaptability, and a growth mindset are essential for success. Gain actionable strategies to thrive in uncertainty, reframe challenges as opportunities, and lead with confidence in the evolving STEM landscape. Don't miss this opportunity to connect and learn!
11:45 AM to 12:45 PM	Lunch and Networking
Breakout Workshops	Breakout 1 – Main Room/Auditorium – <i>STEM SISTERS: Strengthening Bonds and Overcoming Challenges Together</i> Sam Knisely, Moderator Presenter – Tina Nixon, <i>MHA, CDE, Owner, M2M Consulting, LLC</i> Empowering Connections, Building Resilience-This interactive workshop is designed to empower young women in STEM by fostering strong interpersonal connections and enhancing resilience. Through collaborative activities, participants will build a supportive network, share experiences and develop strategies to navigate the unique challenges faced by women in the STEM fields.
	Breakout 2–Room 211C – <i>Building Your Best Self: Elevate Your Career & Confidence</i> Stephanie Zegers, Moderator Presenter – Kellee Murray-Morales, <i>Vice President of Human Resources, Cargas Systems</i> Unlock the secrets to becoming a standout professional and manifesting your best self in this dynamic and empowering session! Designed for those ready to elevate their careers, this session dives into actionable strategies for commanding presence, advocating for yourself, and building strong communication skills that leave a lasting impact. Discover how to work smarter, not harder, set boundaries with grace, and influence others without authority. With practical tools, mindset shifts, and a focus on personal and professional growth, you'll leave this session feeling energized and equipped to take charge of your career while staying true to yourself.
1:50 PM to 2:00 PM	Networking Break
2:00 PM to 2:50 PM	STEM Panel Discussion Moderator – Dr. Oralia Dominic, <i>Founder and President, National Institute of Rural and Minority Health</i> Science Panelist: Lauren "Ren" Abejo, <i>Systems Analyst, UPMC</i> Technology Panelist: Parul Luthra, <i>Manager of Network Operations Support, Capital Blue Cross</i> Engineering Panelist: Carrie Fischer, <i>Senior Engineer, NTM Engineering</i> Mathematics Panelist: Stephanie Lake, <i>Systems Engineer, GEA Group</i>
2:50 PM to 3:00 PM	Reflection, Key Takeaways and Closing Remarks Dr. Bili Mattes, <i>Executive Director, STEM-UP Network</i>