**Impact the lives of the next generation of Science Professionals!**

On **Saturday June 16** the Kentucky Science Center will present the eighth annual Louisville **Future S.T.E.M. Professionals Summit** (formerly known as the Youth Science Summit). This event serves to engage motivated teens in a day of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programming. This signature event will be headquartered at **Genscape** (1140 Garvin Place), but with programming throughout the Louisville area. We need your expertise!

The goal for the day is that the students will leave the event inspired about a potential career in a STEM field, while also gaining a deeper understanding of careers that meet their interests and strengths. The goal is to make this Summit the premier college prep event of the summer!

An anticipated audience of 100 Middle and High School students (separated by age into tracks of 20) will be onsite for this day-long program and the call is out to scientists, researchers, business professionals, etc. from all walks of life.

As of late May, the following roles are available:

**Day-long Track Chaperone- 9:00am-4:00pm**. With buses travelling to labs sites around the Louisville region, we need background checked volunteers to stay with each track throughout the day.

**Speed Mentoring**- **3:00-4:00pm** Each High School aged Summit participant will have the opportunity to engage in mentoring. Groups of 2-4 teens will be at a table with a professional (that’s you!) to simply chat about higher education, career paths, STEM advice, etc. Every few minutes, a timer will sound and all participants will rotate to another table. This allows short but diverse interactions and an opportunity to gather many perspectives and possible contacts for follow-up conversations. Page 2 of this letter describes Speed Mentoring in greater detail.

Interested? Please contact us to sign up today. This year in particular, we want to highlight the alma maters of our Speed Mentors, especially if they are interviewers for top colleges and universities across the country. Please include very brief degree information when you reply. If you sadly cannot participate in this event, please do not hesitate to forward this letter amongst your colleagues and professional contacts.

Thank you for your interest in celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and sharing what you do with the next generation of researchers and professionals. We look forward to continued collaborative efforts! For the youth in your life, tickets are available now at <https://kysciencecenter.org/programs/future-stem-professionals-summit/>

Sincerely,

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Speed Mentoring Guide

**Thank you for your interest in sharing what you do with the youth at the Kentucky Science Center!**

In recent years Speed Mentoring has become a staple of programming aimed at High School or late Middle School students. Frequently seen at Future S.T.E.M. Professionals Summits (day-long conferences for teens, typically in the summer) or Science Celebrations (thematic multi-day events throughout the school year), Speed Mentoring is an effective way for the Kentucky Science Center to ‘activate’ many regional professionals, and provide real content to youth that may have only heard of science professionals described in only the most general of terms.

**What is Speed Mentoring?**

Imagine Speed Dating…but with STEM! Adults are assembled at numbered tables in a large room. Youth are then divided into small groups (usually 1-3) and assigned a table. Everyone is then instructed to begin talking, and after a few minutes a bell will ring for the youth to move to the next table while the adults stay seated. This allows for a rapid fire of questions, dialogues, and discoveries.

**What do I need to bring to Speed Mentoring?**

This is the beauty of Speed Mentoring—no advance content preparation is necessary. A perfect outlet for professionals looking to engage youth, but without the means to conduct a hands-on lab session, bring sophisticated equipment to the Science Center, or commit beyond an hour of your day. Small table-top visual aids are welcomed if it adds to your conversations, but many Speed Mentoring sessions only feature the murmur of dialogue filling a room! Business cards can be shared if you are looking for interns or wish to be made available for more in-depth conversations.

**What do you recommend I talk about? Surely I shouldn’t just repeat my job description over and over again.**

With only a few minutes to dedicate to each conversation you will want to maximize your time. Repeating the same information over and over can quickly become tiresome. While there is no one correct way to engage Speed Mentoring participants, here are some conversation suggestions:

* Where did you go to college? What advice on college admissions do you have?
* How has your industry’s technology changed since your formal education? What lessons did you learn in your education beyond the specifics on a piece (now possibly outdated) technology?
* What is the salary range of your profession, and what kind of lifestyle does it afford?
* What advice do you have for setting yourself apart from the workforce crowd? What advice do you wish you had received as a Middle or High School student?
* What do you see as the biggest unanswered questions, challenges, or opportunities in your field for the next generation?

*Let the youth drive the conversation. Never hesitate to ask questions yourself to jumpstart a conversation. See this link,* <http://learn-differently.com/files/2011/08/top-ten-mistakes-article-2011.pdf> *for more generalized advice on presenting content to youth, and see your KSC project leader with any other questions or concerns.* Welcome to Kentucky Science Center Team