



The IF/THEN[®] Champions Network: Upcoming opportunities and new resources to increase gender representation in STEM August 19, 2026

IF/THEN[®]

CHAMPIONS NETWORK

The background is a solid teal color. It is decorated with various abstract geometric elements in a darker teal and a light olive green. These elements include straight lines, curved lines, and small circular dots. Some lines are horizontal or vertical, while others are curved at 90 or 180 degrees. The dots are placed at the ends of these lines or at points where lines intersect or curve.

Welcome!

**Share a highlight from your
summer in the chat**



Agenda

- Champions Network Overview
- Champions Network Reflection Activity
- Preview of Upcoming Opportunities
- Questions & Reflections
- Update on the State of Girls & Women in STEM
- Resources & Upcoming Opportunities



IF/THEN® Champions Network



The vision of the National Girls Collaborative Project is to **support and create STEM experiences that are as diverse as the world we live in.**

NGCP Resources:

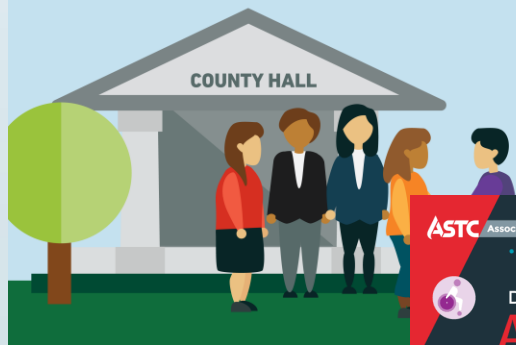
- National Webinars
- Monthly Newsletter
- Website featuring research and statistics related to girls and women in STEM
- Partner Projects



ASTC **creates strategic opportunities, develops intellectual capital, and assembles resources** to support our members in realizing their missions and engaging their communities.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY MAKING

- Funding opportunities
- Annual conference and convenings
- Professional learning & development



Champions Network Goals

The Champions Network is a collective of institutions and individuals **committed to advancing gender equity across STEM fields** via the IF/THEN® Collection.

Our goals are to provide resources that support expanding representation and STEM workforce development, while providing a community of mutual support and professional development.



The **IF/THEN® Collection** is the largest free resource dedicated to increasing access to authentic and relatable images of real women in STEM.

The Collection is part of the [IF/THEN®](#) Initiative, a national effort sponsored by [Lyda Hill Philanthropies®](#) to inspire young girls to pursue STEM careers while creating a culture shift in how the world perceives women in STEM.



Champions Network Reflection Slido Poll

- Scan this QR Code on your phone or visit www.slido.com and enter code 3593205 to join
- Answer 2 short questions to reflect on your experience as part of the Champions Network
- Your answers are anonymous but will populate in a word cloud
- Short words, initial ideas, and phrases are fine!



[www.Slido.com](https://www.slido.com)

Code: #3593205



The background is a solid teal color with a network diagram overlay. The diagram consists of various nodes (small circles) in dark blue and olive green, connected by thin lines. Some lines are straight, while others are curved, creating a complex web-like structure. The nodes are distributed across the frame, with some clusters and some isolated points.

Preview of Upcoming Champions Network Opportunities

Webinars & Meetups

❖ Webinars – 2x/year

- To provide content knowledge and strategies for educational programming and increasing representation of women in STEM
- Feature guest speakers including network members, ambassadors, and other experts in the field

❖ Meetups – 2x/year

- To provide opportunities for network members to connect and share strategies for utilizing the IF/THEN® Collection assets
- Next meetup in November 2026

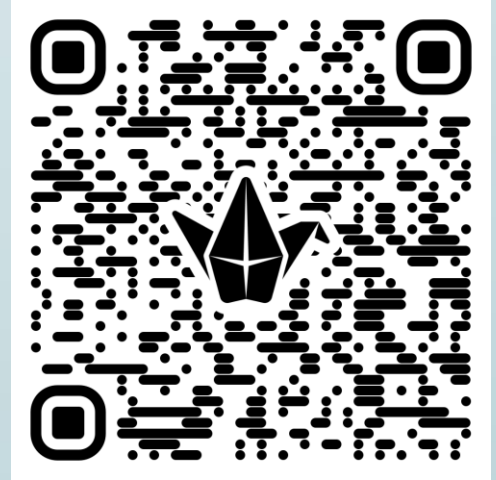
❖ Onboarding events as needed

- To welcome new members to the network and help develop goals related to the IF/THEN® Collection and representation of women in STEM



Webinars & Meetups Brainstorm

- Scan this QR Code on your phone or click the link in the chat to participate
- Opportunity to collaboratively brainstorm content, forms of engagement, and speakers
- Your answers will be anonymous
- Short words, initial ideas, and phrases are fine!



New IF/THEN Display Content

❖ *This is What a Scientist Looks Like*

- What has been working?

❖ *Game Changers*

- New assets
- Kit ideas



Small Awards (next round)

❖ Overview

- Up to \$5,000
- Support for projects that respond to local needs and incorporate IF/THEN® assets
 - Update an existing program or exhibit
 - Deliver a new program or event
 - Invite an IF/THEN® Ambassador to speak

❖ Timeline

- Winter 2027



Ambassador Wendy Bohon and colleague at Sacramento Children's Museum with Meghan Toland



MuseumLab for Museum Professionals (MLMP) Scholarships for Exhibit Design

❖ Overview

- 2 staff at member museums will be chosen
- Design prototypes featuring the work of IF/THEN® Ambassador(s)

❖ Timeline

- Applications open this fall

❖ Learn More

- ASTC conference session "MuseumLab for Museum Professionals: Unleashing Creativity and Innovation" on Friday, Sept 18, 10:15-11:15am
- Exhibit hall showcase on Friday, Sept 18, 11:30-12:00pm



Museum-Library Partnerships Cohort

❖ Overview

- Mini-grants to 8 teams of museum-library partners to develop collaborative project that integrate IF/THEN® resources into library programming and shared community initiatives
- 6-month virtual cohort experience
- Project showcase webinar & final projects will be added to the Project Library

❖ Timeline

- Application opens in September
- Cohort activities January-June 2027



ASTC Annual Conference

- ❖ **Date/location:** September 16-19, 2026, in Phoenix Arizona
- ❖ **Champions Network Activities**
 - **Provided 27 registration and/or travel scholarships to network members**
 - **Extended Session:** *IF/THEN® Champions Network: Advancing Gender Equity in STEM Through Connectivity and Collaboration* (Wednesday, September 16, 2:00-5:00pm)
 - **Concurrent Session:** *IF/THEN® Champions Network: Increasing representation of women in STEM together* (Friday, September 18, 1:30-2:30pm)
 - **Booth 511 in Exhibit Hall – come by and say hi!**





Questions & Reflections

Questions & Reflections

- ❖ Questions about the Network or the upcoming opportunities?
- ❖ What is one thing that excites you about the future of the Champions Network?
- ❖ What ideas do the opportunities spark for your/your organization's efforts to increase representation in STEM?





The State of Girls & Women in STEM

Gender Equity Resources

❖ Statistics on Girls and Women in STEM

- K-12 Education
- Higher Education
- STEM Workforce

❖ Research, Data, and What Works

❖ The State of Girls & Women in STEM



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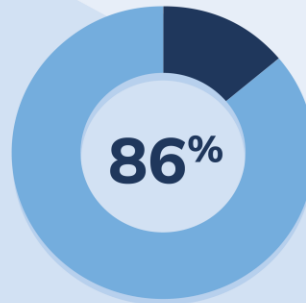
Stereotypes about STEM people and careers

Stereotypes about girls' interest in computer science and engineering are **formed as early as age 6 and are evident from childhood through adolescence**

Master et al., 2021



The State of Girls and Women in STEM



STEM curriculum is often irrelevant and disconnected from girls' lives

86% of girls/young women want a career where they can help others

Hinkleman, 2024



The State of Girls and Women in STEM



Girls often have limited exposure to relatable women STEM role models

Interaction with diverse women role models can shift girls' perceptions about who participates in STEM and increase girls' identification with STEM



The State of Girls and Women in STEM



Women earn **50% of bachelor's degrees** in science & engineering, but they earn only



in Engineering

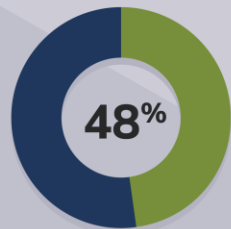
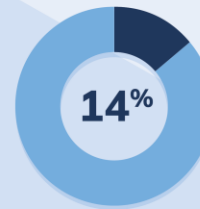
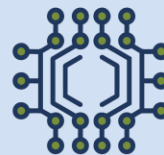


in Computer &
Information Science

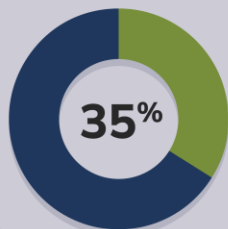


in Physics

Women represent only **14% percent** of registered apprentices, paid training programs that provide a pathway to employment and offer an alternative to college



Women constitute **48%**
of the total workforce



Women constitute **35%**
of the STEM workforce

Women STEM professionals are **concentrated in different fields than men**, with relative high shares of women in social sciences (65%) and life sciences (48%) but only

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

35%

COMPUTER AND
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

26%

ENGINEERING

16%

Data to Practice Reflection

- ❖ How do these statistics/research findings show up in your institution or community?
- ❖ How do they impact your work to increase representation of women in STEM?



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Resources and Upcoming Activities

Resources

Access resources at: <https://ngcproject.org/ifthen-champions-network>

- Links to IF/THEN® Initiative and Collection resources
- Instructions for requesting and downloading assets
- Media and branding guide
- Link to join the LinkedIn Group
- Details about upcoming webinars and an archive of past webinar recordings



Upcoming Activities

- 2026 Annual ASTC Conference:
September 16-19, 2026, in Phoenix, AZ
- Museum-Library Partnership mini-grant
applications open September 2026/at
conference
- MLMP scholarship applications open
at/after conference



Questions?

You can also email questions to
Kata Lucas at klucas@ngcproject.org

