**(A) Mission and Vision (one page limit)**

 **Long-term vision and purpose.** VISION: The South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership (SMS Partnership) catalyzes Oregon students to achieve STEM degrees and certificates, and reach Oregon’s education goals by increasing the access, excitement and engagement of students in STEM courses and experiential learning. MISSION (Purpose): The SMS Partnership will collectively optimize PK-20 STEM education by utilizing a full spectrum of public and private resources and model instructional practices to develop a career-ready, diverse, and adaptable workforce that enhances the regional economy and community.

**Why partnership is critical.** Local school districts have many exceptional STEM practices, but lack cross-district, cross-sector collaboration. One of the biggest issues reported by superintendents is the inability to reach all children in their districts with STEM contextualized learning experiences that will lead to higher student achievement in STEM. The SMS STEM Partners convened for over 18 months and agreed to engage in three promising strategies to meet this community need: STEM NETwork, Teacher Learning Community, and Accelerated Credit.

 **Desired changes as a result of collaboration**. South Metro-Salem schools will have: (1) Contextualized, project-based learning, connecting academics to advanced application, enabled through teachers coaching students as they learn; (2) STEM content and courses to increase exposure to STEM careers with contextualized learning delivered at all education levels; (3) Engaged teachers who are supported by active community and industry partners in and outside the classroom; (4) Technology, science, mathematics, and engineering design integrated so that students understand and use core principles; and (5) Multiple options for students to succeed in college-level STEM courses while in high school. Outcomes are connected to Achievement Compact goals and common core standards, and align with Oregon’s education strategy.