# Statewide STEM Leadership Summit Convenes in Eugene

Nearly 140 leaders from across the state met in Eugene last Friday to make policy and investment recommendations to improve STEM education outcomes for our students. Sponsored by Oregon Learns, the STEM Leadership Summit invited representatives and experts from industry, preK-12, community colleges, universities, out of school program providers, and policy makers to move the STEM conversation beyond the acronym and focus on essential skills, attitudes, and mindsets for students to thrive and contribute in a rapidly changing world.

Drawing upon the diversity of perspectives in the room, participants identified specific barriers in STEM for students along the continuum from birth to career, while also noting the tremendous number of assets that exist in each of our communities to address those barriers. The majority of the afternoon was dedicated to constituency groups identifying specific strategies, investments, and policy changes to overcome these barriers, particularly for women and students of color who are underrepresented in STEM. These recommendations will be submitted to the STEM Investment Council for further consideration.

About half of the participants at the Summit are involved with a Regional STEM Hub. Building a collaborative network of these local, multi-stakeholder partnerships is a critical strategy for improving STEM educational outcomes across the state. Teams from these Hubs met on Saturday following the Summit to discuss how we can work more effectively together to accelerate results through shared expertise, strategies, and insights. [Click here](http://oregon.us7.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=a47b05a8f1c8426cbfc2677ac&id=14f10edf71&e=99a4cccba8)to view a map of the Regional STEM Hubs.

