



VOLUNTEERS FOR SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH

Vols4STEM is a resource of the Innovation Valley® intended to facilitate the voluntary collaboration of its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professional community, STEM employers, STEM educators, and other stakeholders. Vols4STEM was conceived as a means to improve K-12 STEM education and workforce development, by engaging more STEM professionals as volunteers in STEM outreach activities to area youth. Vols4STEM partners connect volunteers with educators and students to work on classroom activities and STEM clubs together, and provide much-needed resources, supplies, and expertise to area classrooms.

A list of some of our accomplishments:

Fall 2009: Set up a booth and talked to teachers at the Reach Them to Teach Them event at the Tennessee Theatre

April 2010: Placed 500+ science and math teachers in area “STEM” companies for their system-wide in-service day

July 2010: Introduced Vols4STEM to teachers at the new teacher orientation

August 2010: Presented workshops on Vols4STEM at the science pre-service day at Bearden High School

Summer 2010: Appointed points-of-contact at each middle and high school to match STEM teacher needs with STEM professional volunteers

An example of volunteer activities this year:

- Geologists from a local company spoke to all science students at Vine Middle School
- Mentors and speakers arranged for Hardin Valley Academy’s STEM school
- Cannon & Cannon adopted Bearden High School
- Industrial Electronics donated technical components and materials to Cedar Bluff Middle

For more information, please contact Jennifer Evans, Vice President of Workforce Development & Education at the Knoxville Chamber and Chair of the Vols4STEM Steering Committee, at jevans@knoxvillechamber.com or (865) 246-2641.

Vols4STEM was formed in 2008 as an effort among several area organizations and individuals representing a three-legged stool of education, business, and STEM societies. Current partners include the Knoxville Chamber, Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Knox County Schools, Oak Ridge Economic Partnership, and Innovation Valley Inc. Information about ongoing and proposed STEM outreach activities, opportunities to sign up as a volunteer, and other information are available online at: www.vols4STEM.org.

