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PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Transform your technical expertise into organizational influence. Review our curated leadership tracks below to build your business case for attending STEM Connect 2026.

EARLY CAREER TRACK

Don't Let Your Talent Go Unnoticed

THE CHALLENGE

Hard work and technical execution don't automatically guarantee visibility, recognition, or access to new opportunities.

THE TAKEAWAY

Learn to translate your contributions into clear impact statements and build credibility without feeling like you are bragging or self-promoting.

Open Doors at Work: Habits That Invite Collaboration

THE CHALLENGE

Modern technology makes us easy to reach, but verbal and nonverbal habits can unintentionally make us difficult to approach.

THE TAKEAWAY

Master the communication cues that signal openness, making it easier for stakeholders to collaborate, share ideas, and trust your input.

Avoid Career Drift: Take Control of Your Path

THE CHALLENGE

Staying busy delivering work often prevents early-career professionals from intentionally building the skills needed for their next step.

THE TAKEAWAY

Shift from passively hoping for growth to actively creating a professional roadmap using stretch assignments, feedback, and purposeful development.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTOR TRACK

Know Yourself to Lead Your Impact

THE CHALLENGE

Good work does not speak for itself when you are expected to influence decisions, manage up, and gain buy-in without formal authority.

THE TAKEAWAY

Leverage the 5 Voices framework to communicate complex ideas clearly, build trust across different working styles, and lead from your current seat.

What Do You Do with Rage? Turning Frustration into Influence

THE CHALLENGE

Unmanaged workplace frustration quietly damages trust and visibility, turning into resentment, avoidance, or reactive communication.

THE TAKEAWAY

Translate emotional reactions into clear concerns, respectful boundaries, and productive advocacy that strengthens rather than harms your credibility.

Creating the Visibility, Influence, and Opportunities You Want

THE CHALLENGE

High-performing professionals are often held back not by their potential, but by hidden assumptions and internal narratives limiting what they believe is possible.

THE TAKEAWAY

Develop the awareness to reframe workplace challenges and expand your possibilities for contribution, visibility, and career momentum.

When Pressure Turns Personal: Navigating Workplace Tension

THE CHALLENGE

High-pressure environments can trigger emotional responses that unintentionally create tension and misunderstandings among peers.

THE TAKEAWAY

Apply emotional intelligence and mindfulness strategies to regulate stress, listen effectively, and maintain composure during difficult interactions.

Turn Tough Feedback Into Career Momentum

THE CHALLENGE

Feedback can accelerate growth, but poorly delivered or unfair feedback often triggers defensiveness that damages relationships.

THE TAKEAWAY

Use a pause-and-respond method to separate useful signals from emotional noise, responding with maturity to protect your reputation and impact.

MANAGER TRACK

Know Yourself to Lead Others

THE CHALLENGE

The problem-solving instincts that made you an excellent individual contributor work against you the moment you need to develop a team.

THE TAKEAWAY

Use the Support/Challenge Matrix to stop solving everything for your team and start coaching them toward accountability, ownership, and higher performance.

Leading in the Learning Zone: Psychological Safety

THE CHALLENGE

When work gets messy, teams without trust shut down, hide issues, or pretend everything is fine rather than learning from friction.

THE TAKEAWAY

Build psychological safety that isn't just "playing nice," but rather creates the accountability and trust required for teams to take appropriate risks.

From Answer-Giver to Growth-Builder

THE CHALLENGE

Managers who fix every issue end up overloaded while their teams become dependent and fail to develop problem-solving capabilities.

THE TAKEAWAY

Master a simple coaching framework to resist the urge to jump in with answers, empowering employees to identify solutions and take ownership.

Building Accountability, Engagement, and High-Performing Teams

THE CHALLENGE

When expectations are unclear, accountability often feels like micromanagement, blame, or repeated difficult conversations that stall.

THE TAKEAWAY

Reframe accountability as shared ownership rather than a punitive process, setting clearer expectations that lead to genuine follow-through.

SENIOR MANAGER & DIRECTOR TRACK

Ingredients of Influence: Relational Capital & Commitment

THE CHALLENGE

Leaders at this level are accountable for cross-functional outcomes, yet formal authority alone rarely creates genuine commitment.

THE TAKEAWAY

Diagnose barriers to influence, align stakeholder motivations, and build the relational capital necessary to move strategic initiatives forward.

Know Your System to Lead the Organization

THE CHALLENGE

What worked when leading one team creates dependency, change fatigue, and misalignment when leading through managers across a wider system.

THE TAKEAWAY

Step back to see the system you are shaping. Learn to communicate purpose, align stakeholders, and lead confidently through organizational ambiguity.

Command the Room: Build Your Leadership Brand

THE CHALLENGE

Even when a business unit delivers results, an unclear leadership narrative can result in weak stakeholder alignment and limited executive support.

THE TAKEAWAY

Translate your department's work into a compelling value story that projects authority, strengthens credibility, and secures broader organizational impact.

Breaking Your Ceiling: Unlocking Meta Performance

THE CHALLENGE

The leadership habits, assumptions, and decision-making approaches that drove past success can become an invisible ceiling to enterprise-level impact.

THE TAKEAWAY

Develop "meta performance"—the ability to intentionally examine how you influence and create value—to drive strategic alignment and measurable enterprise results.

Ready to Elevate Your Career?

Register at <https://stemconnect.events/>

Secure your spot today to access specialized tracks, executive coaching, and industry networking.