

Hub History



Akron
Tomorrow



With a desire to capitalize on Akron's foundation in STEM, an exciting, collaborative formed in 2004 among six exceptional institutions – Akron Public Schools, City of Akron, Invent Now, The University of Akron, Greater Akron Chamber and Akron Tomorrow with the goal of creating a STEM school.

In conjunction with the NIHF-STEM (middle) School opening in 2009, these innovative leaders partnered with the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) to create the Akron Hub. The Hub operates along effective STEM schools to ensure these sites are not silos of excellence, but rather serve as platforms to share best practices and build STEM throughout the region.

Along with the NIHF-STEM (middle) School, the Hub added two additional platform schools of STEM excellence within the Akron region — the NIHF-STEM (high) school and Bio-Med Science Academy, both of which opened in 2012, with ninth grade. Both high schools will be at full capacity in 2016, with grades 9-12.

The OSLN Akron Hub is a committed regional facilitator for schools, higher education institutions, businesses, non-profits, government organizations and community groups interested in forming STEM collaborations. The Akron Hub's vision is to build, capture and connect STEM disciplines while leveraging partnerships in alignment with economic development priorities.

As one of seven regional hubs with the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN), the Akron Hub aligns with this network-oriented approach to magnify STEM schools and programs to spread effective practices and tools across the state and beyond. OSLN supports the growth and quality of STEM education in Ohio by:

- ◇ Connecting the best STEM schools, teachers and administrators to each other and to national resources
- ◇ Assisting schools and communities that want to create new or re-shape existing STEM schools and programs
- ◇ Driving STEM innovations through a network approach

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Akron Training Center History

As an additional strategy to leverage the region's platform schools for parties interested in STEM best practices, the Akron Hub opened its training center in September 2012. Based at the NIHF-STEM Middle School, the training center provides face-to-face, virtual and hybrid STEM-focused learning opportunities, such as: panels, tours, observations, educational artifacts, problem-based learning video units, partnership summits, professional development workshops, informational sessions, networking events and much more.

The Akron Hub also amplifies its physical reach outside the school walls to provide professional development sessions, meetings and workshops at its partners' facilities. Additionally, through connections with other OSLN regional hubs, training centers and STEM networks, the Akron Hub has access to meeting and event spaces, allowing it to serve as a regional resource and for other STEM schools across the country. Lastly, the Akron Hub engages a group of highly trained facilitators able to travel so the Hub can provide an array of services and offerings wherever these opportunities emerge.