



Future Pathways in CTE, STEM and STEAM

November 2023



Welcome to the November Issue of Future Pathways

Hoping your new school year is off to a good start! This issue is a mix of information about STEM and STEAM learning approaches, the importance of soft skills in the workplace, and several financial aid resources for colleges and training schools. You'll find the schedule for an excellent free Financial Aid webinar series on Page 3. For assistance with questions about CTE, STEM, STEAM, and general education, contact James at: jwark@spipa.org



6 Reasons Why A STEM Career Might Be For You

Choosing a career is one of life's most important decisions. For those who are not sure what pathway to choose, a career interest assessment can be most beneficial, and SPIPA offers several. Here is an article that offers six engaging reasons why a career in STEM might be for you or someone you know.

Link: <https://www.dosomething.org/us/articles/6-reasons-why-a-career-in-stem-might-be-for-you>



Understanding the College Application Process

Applying for college can be exciting and stressful in equal measure. This article from the American Indian Engineering Society shares helpful ideas for planning your approach, such as keeping an eye on important deadlines.

Later in this issue, you'll find an article about FAFSA and a series of free instructional webinars that will describe the steps you'll take to achieve successful outcomes on the FAFSA application process.

Link: [Understanding the College Application Process | Winds of Change \(aises.org\)](https://www.winds-of-change.org/understanding-the-college-application-process)



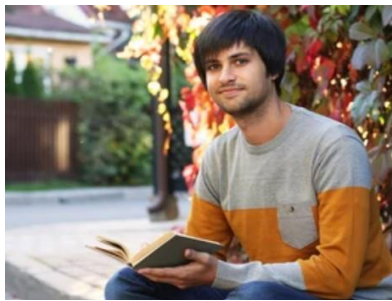
How STEM Education Improves Student Learning

Learning experiences in STEM are designed to reflect how the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math interconnect in the professional world to solve complex problems and achieve practical goals. This expansive article is especially focused on younger learners and the positive outcomes they can experience through STEM learning opportunities. The benefits of STEM education are many and include the development of critical thinking skills, creative problem-solving, and experiential learning through project-based assignments. **Link:** [How STEM Education Improves Student Learning \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/education/learning/how-stem-education-improves-student-learning)



What Are Soft Skills and Why Are They Are Important

This article from Indeed, "the #1 job site in the world," describes Soft Skills as "personality traits and behaviors that will help candidates get hired and succeed in their work." Examples include communication, problem-solving, and dependability. Soft skills extend beyond the classroom and workplace and can be practiced and strengthened at home. Click on the link for descriptions and benefits of soft skills. **Link:** <https://shorturl.at/rFIKN>



What is STEAM Education? The Definitive Guide for K-12

By adding Art into the STEM equation, STEAM learning encourages creative approaches to problem-solving, enhanced communication skills, project management skills, and visual design. A good example of a STEAM career is Architecture, a field that blends math, the sciences, and creative design with often beautiful results. For a comprehensive look at STEAM learning approaches, please click here: **Link:** <https://artsintegration.com/what-is-steam-education-in-k-12-schools/>



The American Indian College Fund's New PSA

On Indigenous Peoples' Day 2023, the American Indian College Fund released a new PSA called "Move Aside" that features Reservation Dog, Elva Guerra. Elva also plays the role of Sally Growing Thunder on another popular series, Dark Winds. The PSA is based on the simple concept of "bringing to life a cover letter" where we witness a Native graduate, played by Guerra, preparing to take on her promising future ahead. It is an inspirational message for hard-working students and their families. Thank you to Native News Online for the **Link:** [Reservation Dogs' Elva Guerra. a Featured in American Indian College Fund's New PSA | Education \(nativenewsonline.net\)](https://www.nativenewsonline.net/education/a-featured-in-american-indian-college-fund-s-new-psa/)



CTE Dual Credit Classes Explained

Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual credit classes are offered at many high schools and skills centers across the state, in partnership with community and technical colleges. CTE dual credit classes are taught at the high school or skills center. Dual credit classes integrate academics with technical skills to help students prepare for advanced education and careers.

- Students earn high school and college credit for successfully completing the same class.
- Dual credit can also lower the costs of higher education for students and families by decreasing the amount of time needed to complete a college major and earn a degree.
- **Link:** WSBfCC CTE Dual Credit Information: <https://shorturl.at/sCVY1>



Top 10 Job Skills Students Need To Develop Today

To stand out in a competitive world, a student is required to hone many skills and abilities. These skills will be helpful not just in schools and colleges, but also in building a meaningful and lucrative professional career. This article lists the "Top 10 Soft Skills" students need to develop to support career success, and why they are beneficial in the workplace and beyond.

Link: <https://shorturl.at/lqMV9>



Free FAFSA Webinar Series - 2023-2024 School Year

The Washington State-based College Success Foundation (CFS) "coaches and supports students from low socioeconomic backgrounds to prepare for and graduate from college as transformational leaders, to forge a just and equitable society." Their vision is that a college degree is attainable for all. To support this vision for students and families, the College Success Foundation is offering a series of free Financial Aid - Webinars scheduled from November 2023 through March 2024.

The **FAFSA application window opens in** December and there's a lot of anticipation about the new website design. Word on the street is that the FAFSA process will be more streamlined and easier to use. These workshops will be beneficial for both first time and experienced users. Good luck with your application!

Webinar Series Schedule - FAFSA & Financial Aid

Scholarships - Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

This webinar will give insight on how to prepare for your scholarship search and application process. You'll learn about the upcoming CSF scholarship cycle, eligibility requirements, and important dates to remember. Required documents and essay questions.

- **Register:** <https://shorturl.at/guGOZ>

FAFSA Overview - Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

This webinar will review changes and updates found on the newly redesigned FAFSA website and will provide a step-by-step overview of the new FAFSA application process. You'll learn what documents are needed to prepare for the application and other tips for ensuring successful outcomes.

- **Register:** <https://shorturl.at/jqxTX>

WAFSA Overview - Tuesday, November 21, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

The WAFSA is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid, another great resource for students and families. In this webinar, you'll review the online WAFSA application form and what documents you'll need to prepare. Also covered is how to address special circumstances and prepare for next steps! **Link to WAFSA website:** <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>

- **Register:** (11/21): <https://tinyurl.com/3u9ysmmd>

Student Loans - Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

This webinar is a deep dive into different types of loans that are available for students and will connect the process of borrowing money for college to making career decisions. It will also address the consequences for nonpayment and provide tools to develop individual borrowing plans.

- **Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/y8v5ydv4>

Financial Aid Award Letters - Tuesday, March 26, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

In this webinar, you will learn to better understand your financial aid award offer, how to access tools to assess true affordability, and learn strategies to address the situation of too much unmet need.

- **Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/2r4mbwzw>

Website: College Success Foundation (CSF) "Mission, Vision, & Values"

- **Link:** [College Success Foundation Mission | Mission. Vision. History](#)

Thank you for reading and have a great November!

For assistance with questions about CTE, STEM, STEAM, and general education, please contact James Wark, SPIPA CTE/STEM navigator at jwark@spipa.org.

"STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student's inquiry, dialog, and critical thinking."
Susan Riley, Arts Integration Specialist