

# South Dakota Definition of STEM

South Dakota STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) education is the mastery and integration of science and mathematics with technology and engineering for ALL students through:

- Relevant educational experience that advances career goals through a Personal Learning Plan, Programs of Study, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills;
- The development of relationships by connecting students, teachers, parents, schools and communities to create opportunities for success in a global economy through Career Guidance, Parental Engagement, and Service Learning;
- Utilizing rigorous curriculum, instruction and assessment to prepare students for a post-secondary experience and career opportunities;
- Data-based decisions by evaluating student progress and improving educational outcomes.

A true STEM education program integrates the four fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math. STEM education incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design to develop skills through:

- communication,
- teamwork and collaboration,
- creativity and innovation,
- critical thinking and problem solving,
- while using a professional work ethic.