Engineering State Systems of Informal Science Education that Inspire:

Youth to pursue education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through increased opportunities for quality, hands-on STEM exploration.

Afterschool staff to facilitate STEM learning experiences that contribute to the overall STEM education and aspirations of their youth training and ongoing support.

Afterschool administrators to encourage and support staff in the integration of STEM enrichment into the daily programming.

State leaders to sustain and expand afterschool learning opportunities so that all students have access to engaging STEM experiences outside of the regular school day.

Project LIFTOFF is dedicated to the development of the following essential elements of statewide systems for informal science education:

- Access to appropriate STEM Curriculum for youth of all ages, abilities, and socio-cultural backgrounds that meets the needs and interests of individual community programs
- Systematic STEM Professional Development that matches individual skills in positive youth development with abilities to facilitate discovery and science learning
- A diverse Cadres of Trainers who will deliver the professional development, technical assistance and curriculum dissemination in their local communities
- Authentic Evaluation of informal science efforts that determine the impacts on youth aspirations and the capacity of youth programs to provide quality STEM experiences
- Local STEM education leadership to identify the ways in which collaborative education efforts can advance the development of 21st Century Skills and the preparedness for STEM workforce and higher education
- Partnerships in support of youth development and informal science education that convene local, regional, and statewide organizations and stakeholders

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