

DATE:

Wednesday
May 17, 2023

This is a virtual/online (MS Teams) meeting. Log-in information will be provided on the registration confirmation email.

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm PDT

Welcome & Introductions will begin at 6 pm, followed by the presentation and Q&A

Cost: Free for ASQ members and non-members

To register for this online/virtual meeting, please RSVP with your name, email, ASQ affiliation (member and section, or non-member), to [Denise](#) by May 15 for planning purposes and to receive RU credit following the meeting.

Attendance at this meeting earns 0.5 RUs toward ASQ recertification.

For more information about our ASQ section and other upcoming events, visit our [myASQ Community](#) or www.asq614.org/

Building the Workforce of the Future



Deb Bowen

Executive Director, The STEM Foundation

Building a trained workforce is essential to overall quality of life. What happens to quality when an industry - or an entire region - lacks enough skilled workers to drive its economic engine? Whose responsibility is it to plan and invest in future workforce development?

Since 2008, The STEM Foundation has engaged the Mid-Columbia region's top leaders from business, labor, K-12, higher education, and the community at large in initiatives to advance STEM education and career connected learning (CCL) opportunities. The Foundation also designs and scales innovative STEM programming across the state. Impact is leveraged by working as the Southeastern Washington Network for Career Connect Washington, one of nine regional hubs, and the Mid-Columbia STEM Network, one of 11 Washington STEM-led regional networks. The focus is on helping to build a local STEM education infrastructure that enables more local youth to meet ongoing and future demand for STEM-proficient workers.

The STEM Foundation began with a successful effort to design, fund, and build a STEM high school, Delta High School, in the Tri-Cities. A cornerstone of that work was creating and staffing a CCL system, first within Delta High, the only such high school in eastern Washington, and then to share best practices across the region. The Foundation's vision is to ensure the following by 2030:

- 70% percent of Mid-Columbia students will earn a post-secondary credential by age 26
- The STEM-proficient workforce will be nearly 100% home-grown and include a high percentage of groups typically underserved in STEM careers
- Local schools - elementary through university - will be highly regarded as national models for business, labor, and community involvement as well as innovative STEM learning

Join us to learn more about these activities and how you can become part of the effort to inspire our next generation.

About the speaker: Deb Bowen has served as Executive Director of The STEM Foundation since 2014. She began her career in the nuclear industry, serving as a human resources manager during the construction of Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station. She became involved in education through leadership on political initiatives and as an adjunct instructor at Washington State University. Deb co-founded the Reading Foundation, and also served as the Executive Director of Junior Achievement. She has designed award-winning programming, led efforts to raise millions of dollars on behalf of youth initiatives, recruited thousands of volunteers, and engaged broad cross-sector support for equitable opportunities for all young people, especially those furthest from opportunity.