

CCPI-STEM LEADERS REPORT ON PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT AFFINITY MEETING

Twenty-four project stakeholders participated in CCPI-STEM's Affinity Meeting on October 31, 2025, in Washington, D.C. The meeting followed the closing plenary session of the 2025 ATE Principal Investigators' Conference where CCPI-STEM leaders participated in the ATE Connect session and CCPI-STEM Fellows participated in a poster session.

At the Affinity Meeting, CCPI-STEM Co-Principal Investigators Dr. Charlene Dukes and Dr. Vera Zdravkovich provided an overview of the project's accomplishments. They include:

- 10 regional meetings, including meetings in North Carolina and Louisiana, in 2025 that set the stage for statewide STEM education collaborations;
- 18 participants in the Fellows program with plans to add five more in spring 2026;
- 17 CCPI-CASTS that increasingly attract larger audiences;
- 5 NSF ATE Instructional Modules that have been developed and placed on CANVAS for free use by individuals and graduate programs. (To request access, email Shane Kirby at skirby2@cscc.edu.)
- 3 Thought Leaders' Dialogues convened in partnership with the League for Innovation in the Community College with reports posted on the project's website.

Zdravkovich said that above all else, the CCPI-STEM project has helped build a STEM- education-committed community.

"We have managed through all these different pieces and parts—through Fellows, through CCPI-CASTs, through Thought Leaders' Dialogues, through regional meetings and so forth — to create that community where people know, hopefully, where to go and the website to which they can try to go and find some answers," Zdravkovich said.

Dukes and Zdravkovich explained the next steps for the grant's no-cost extension and said CCPI-STEM had submitted a new ATE grant proposal earlier in the fall.

CCPI-STEM Fellows Program Coordinator Dr. Ashok Agrawal reported the Fellows have advocated for the NSF ATE program at local, regional, and national meetings while making progress in their graduate degree programs. The nine Fellows in attendance shared how their involvement in CCPI-STEM has impacted their graduate school studies and other professional pursuits.

Affinity Meeting participants' comments in the anonymous surveys completed at the close of the meeting included the observations that CCPI-STEM is "a community of supportive expert professionals [that] is available to assist in furthering our work," and that CCPI-STEM has "such good energy and valuable connections."

Survey respondents recommended CCPI-STEM offer regional gatherings where its modules could be shared, that it have Fellows offer professional development at their colleges, or that Fellows complete a CCPI-STEM-related assignment and report about it.

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