



## INNOVATING THE STEM PIPELINE

### Aligning Education, Industry, and Workforce Needs

October 17, 2024 | 10:00AM CT

[Register Here](#)

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10:00 AM – 10:05 AM

#### Welcome & Opening Remarks

**Dr. Marcos Silva**, Executive Director, Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development

10:06 AM – 10:14 AM

#### Data Deep Dive

**Diana Del Pilar**, Chief of School Performance, Texas A+ Challenge an education initiative of CHILDREN AT RISK

10:15 AM – 10:39 AM

#### Building Strategic Partnerships for a Strong STEM Pipeline from Cradle to College and Career

This session will focus on the vital role that parents, students, families, and various stakeholders—spanning primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools to industry partners—play in cultivating a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Moderated by **Amy Draper**, Deputy Director of Programs, Educate Texas

**Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora**, Superintendent, Tomball ISD

**Karla Sandoval**, Director of Career and Technical Education, Tomball ISD

**Bob Thompson**, Dean of Student Advancement, Tomball ISD

**Susan Harris**, Health Care Alliance, Tomball Director, Medical and Surgical Clinical Decision Unit

**Katerina Wingfield**, Dean of Academic Affairs, Lone Star College – Tomball

10:40 AM – 11:04 AM

#### Building Momentum to STEM Careers

This session will discuss how dual credit, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Pathways and Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs, and early STEM education in elementary and middle schools can serve as critical pathways to both university degrees in STEM and direct entry into the workforce for Texas students.

Moderated by **Dr. Stephanie Garcia**, Education Associate, International Development Research Association (IDRA)

**Kenya Wilson**, Director of College and Career Readiness Programs, Educate Texas

**Sara Mann**, Chief High School Programs Officer, Alamo College

**Dr. Ragina Taylor**, District Career and Technology Education and STEM Facilitator, Grand Prairie ISD

11:05 AM – 11:25 AM

**Keynote: Building STEM Talent for the Future: Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning**

This session will explore how Texas universities, community colleges, and industry partners are working together to offer continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities to ensure workers stay competitive in evolving STEM fields.

**Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar**, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of McAllen and Trustee for South Texas College

11:26 AM – 11:34 AM

**Building Today with the Future of STEM in Mind**

**Alexandra Whittington**, Futurist Writer and Speaker

11:35 AM – 11:58 AM

**Building the Future of STEM Careers: What Does Texas Need?**

This session will spotlight a discussion on the emerging STEM careers in Texas and how the education system must evolve to prepare students for these roles, including automation, AI, and data science.

Moderated by **Kara Branch**, Founder and CEO, Black Girls Do Engineer Corporation

**Matthew Cushing**, Executive Director, Rice Office of STEM Engagement

**Kekeli Ekoue-Kovi**, Research and Development Manager & Project Manager, Baker Hughes

**Dr. Srimoyee Bhattacharya**, Data Science Team Lead, Shell USA

**Akanksha Mehrotra**, CVP AI & Enterprise Marketing

11:58 AM – 12:00 PM

**Closing Remarks**

**Dr. Marcos Silva**, Executive Director, Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development

