CEF™

CREATING EXCITING FUTURES IN STEM



The workforce you need tomorrow starts with the investments you make today.

WORKFORCE PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP GUIDE 2026 / 2027

CEFinSTEM.org



WORKFORCE PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP

MAKE CEF PART OF YOUR WORKFORCE STRATEGY.



Workforce development begins long before workforce recruitment. A Workforce Pathway Partnership connects your workforce priorities with CEF's proven programs, resources, and relationships to create meaningful opportunities that help shape future talent while delivering value to your company today.

WORKFORCE PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

Build Your Future Workforce

Help young people discover the careers and pathways that could lead them to become the skilled tradespeople, operators, technicians, engineers, and other STEM professionals you will need.

INDUSTRY REPUTATION → SHOWCASE YOUR VALUE

Help students and educators understand your industry through the people, careers, technologies, and contributions behind it.

COMPANY VISIBILITY → EXPAND YOUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Show your commitment to developing future talent and investing in the communities where you live and work.

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERISM → ENGAGE YOUR WORKFORCE

Give employees meaningful opportunities to share their expertise, serve as role models, and connect with the next generation.

PROVEN IMPACT

2026 SURVEY RESULTS

87%
of student participants reported learning about new STEM careers

92%
of student participants reported increased interest in STEM

95%
of CEF volunteers are from industry partners

Strengthen Your Talent Advantage.

Partner with CEF and Invest Today!

LET'S START THE CONVERSATION.

Talk with CEF about your workforce priorities and how a Workforce Pathway Partnership can help you build future talent, engage employees, and strengthen your impact.

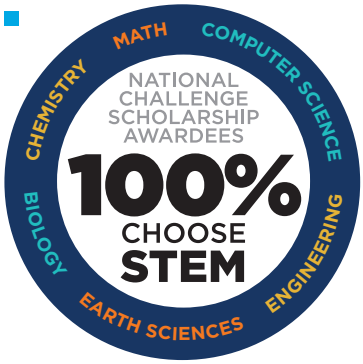


Contact Chief Development Officer, Brandy Gates, at BGates@CEFinSTEM.org.

CEF YOU BE THE SOLUTION CHALLENGE™

SCHOLARSHIPS TODAY. SKILLED TALENT TOMORROW.

CEF's flagship program, the **You Be The Solution Challenge**, builds on more than 35 years of inspiring students through STEM. This national, team-based competition invites students in grades 5–8 to develop a start-up concept and video pitch for an innovative solution to a community challenge. The top 10 teams receive state scholarships and the top five team advance to Houston to present their solutions and compete for the National Champion scholarship.



2026/2027 PREMIER CHALLENGE SPONSORSHIPS*

Sponsorships span the full nine-month program cycle, October 1–June 30, including post-event recognition.

*Higher tiers also receive lower-tier benefits unless otherwise noted.

PRESENTING $75,000

SPONSOR AND PRESENT THE NATIONAL CHAMPION SCHOLARSHIP CHECK TO THE WINNING TEAM AT THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE

SPEAKING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE AT THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE

EXCLUSIVE CLAIMED BY: Olin

TRAILBLAZER $50,000

LOGO ON ALL STATE WINNER SCHOLARSHIP CHECKS *(Exclusive to the first confirmed Trailblazer sponsor)*

NEW THIS YEAR 10 State Winner Scholarships!

LOGO ON ALL STATE WINNER CERTIFICATES

OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A JUDGE FOR THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE COMPETITION

INNOVATOR $25,000

COMPETITION VENUE SPONSOR *(Exclusive to the first confirmed Innovator sponsor)*

CLAIMED BY: LyondellBasell

RECOGNIZED ON STAGE DURING THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE COMPETITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDE: azelis, HAWKINS

AMBASSADOR $10,000

SPONSOR AND PRESENT MEDALS TO THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE FINALISTS *(Exclusive to the first confirmed Ambassador sponsor)*

CLAIMED BY: THIRD COAST

OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE EVENT VIDEO

OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR A REGIONAL CHALLENGE COMPETITION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDE: TLC INGREDIENTS

BENEFITS RECEIVED BY ALL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- Opportunity to provide one CEF-approved branded item for inclusion in National Finalist Welcome Bag
- Logo recognition on the CEF website; at Regional and Virtual Challenge events *(if confirmed by Feb. 1,)*; on National Challenge T-shirts and in the Event Program
- On-site and on-screen recognition during the National Challenge
- Inclusion in CEF email and social media communications



A Challenge sponsorship may stand alone or serve as one component of a broader, year-round Workforce Pathway Partnership.

CEF YOU BE THE SOLUTION CHALLENGE™

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Challenge sponsorships span the full nine-month program cycle, October 1–June 30, including post-event recognition.

2027 NATIONAL CHALLENGE
JUNE 9 | HOUSTON, TX | 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 10:00 AM Student Competition
- 1:30 PM Awards Ceremony

ALLIES
$5,000
CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

~~T-SHIRT~~ SOLD
~~Recognized as official T-shirt Nation~~
(Exclusive to the first confirmed Allies sponsor)

CLAIMED BY:

RGT
Rueden Chemical & Trading Company

LUNCH
Recognized as official Lunch Sponsor at the National Challenge

HALL OF CHAMPIONS
Recognized as official Hall of Champions Sponsor at the National Challenge

SPONSORS INCLUDE:

SUPERIOR

EDUCATOR TRAVEL
Recognized as an official Educator Travel Sponsor to the National Challenge

ADVOCATES
$3,000
CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

EVENT PROGRAM
Recognized as official Event Program Sponsor at the National Challenge
(Exclusive to the first confirmed Advocate sponsor)

HALL OF CAREERS
Recognized as official Hall of Careers Sponsor at the National Challenge

PHOTO BOOTH
Recognized as official Photo Booth Sponsor at the National Challenge

WELCOME BAG
Recognized as an official Sponsor of the Welcome Bag received by each National Finalist



TOGETHER, WE ARE CREATING EXCITING FUTURES IN STEM.

WORKFORCE PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP & CHALLENGE SPONSORSHIP REPLY FORM

Choose the partnership path that fits your goals: a year-round Workforce Pathway Partnership, a 2027 Challenge sponsorship, or both. Mark your selections below; CEF will confirm availability, benefits, and next steps. Any questions? Contact Brandy Gates at 281-635-8247 or BGates@CEFinSTEM.org.

WORKFORCE PATHWAY PARTNERSHIPS

Tell us where a year-round partnership could support your workforce and community goals.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH?

- ☐ Build your future workforce
- ☐ Showcase your industry's value
- ☐ Expand your community impact
- ☐ Engage your employees

Tell us about a workforce priority, community, or geographic area important to your organization:

_____

_____

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CHALLENGE SPONSORSHIPS

- ☐ **$75,000** | ~~*Presenting Sponsor*~~ SOLD
- ☐ **$50,000** | *Trailblazers*
- ☐ **$25,000** | *Innovators*
- ☐ **$10,000** | *Ambassadors*
- ☐ **$5,000** | *Allies: Choose One*
  - ☐ ~~*T-shirt*~~ SOLD ☐ *Hall of Champions*
  - ☐ *Lunch* ☐ *Educator Travel*
- ☐ **$3,000** | *Advocates: Choose One*
  - ☐ *Hall of Careers* ☐ *Program* ☐ *Photo Booth*
  - ☐ *National Finalist Welcome Bag*

☐ **SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS** $_____

Organizations may support student scholarships by contributing any amount to the You Be The Solution Challenge. Thank you!

Scan/click the QR code, or email or mail the completed form to:

CEF, Attn: Brandy Gates
4201 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 515
Arlington, VA 22203

E-Mail: BGates@CEFinSTEM.org
(Subject Line: "Challenge Sponsorship")

CONTACT INFORMATION

_____
Dr./Mr./Ms./Mrs. First Name Last Name

_____
Title

_____
Company/organization name (as it should appear in recognition materials)

_____
Address

_____
City State Zip

_____
Email

_____
Phone

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- ☐ Wire Transfer: instructions available upon request
- ☐ Pay online: Visit www.CEFinSTEM.org and click the DONATE button in the upper-right corner
- ☐ Check #_____ *(made payable to CEF and sent to address above)*
- ☐ Credit Card: *(circle one)* Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

_____ ____ / ____
Card Number Expiration

_____ _____ _____
Name on Card CVC Zip Code

_____
Signature

_____
Email (required for credit card payment)

- ☐ In-Kind Contribution(s): Brandy will follow up on a description of all donated goods/services/equipment

CHALLENGE DEADLINES: Reply form and logo files—vector EPS/AI/PDF plus transparent PNG—due before May 14, 2027. Email logos to SMurphy@CEFinSTEM.org. Sponsor funds must be received by Friday, May 21, 2027 to receive full benefits at the National Challenge.