



## AEOP Strategic Outreach Initiatives

### Open Request for Information (RFI) for Partnership Opportunity with AEOP

**PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE:** The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) through its cooperative agreement (COA) with Battelle is investigating new and innovative ways to form mutually beneficial relationships with likeminded organizations and technical associations that have similar STEM goals, specifically serving students from underserved populations<sup>1</sup> (U2) and military dependents. In collaboration with STEM partners and by sharing information, leveraging strong STEM networks, and building on already existing relationships, AEOP intends to promote its portfolio of opportunities to better meet objectives, maximize impact, and provide more enriching STEM opportunities for students. The AEOP's intent is twofold:

1. to promote its portfolio of STEM opportunities within the framework of an organization's existing STEM programming and where applicable, implement or integrate AEOP elements into that organization's specific programming;
2. to expand partnerships with technical associations enabling more AEOP program participants to engage in scientific meetings/technical symposia to showcase their STEM achievements.

**The intent of this funding is straightforward: to support strategic initiatives that increase participation in programs within the AEOP portfolio by U2 students and/or military dependents** to broaden their participation in STEM and have diverse participation in our competitive programs that reflect our nations demographics. This is our working definition of diversity and STEM. We are NOT looking for proposals to add new programs within the AEOP portfolio. Battelle will accept RFIs from organizations and associations with STEM programming specifically targeted to reach U2 populations in support of STEM education initiatives for U2 and military-dependent K-12 students, their parents, and teachers.

Selected organizations who submit responses to the RFI will be invited to submit an RFP. Awards will be granted for up to \$50,000 for up to one year for new awardees and up to \$200,00 for up to one year for previously funded awardees.

#### **TIMELINE:**

**RFI Open:** November 30, 2017

**RFI Due:** December 18, 2017

**RFI Virtual Info Session (mandatory):** December 5 or 11, 2017, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST

**RFI Notification and RFP Invitations:** December 20, 2017

**Bidders Conference (mandatory for all invited applicants):** January 4, 2018

**RFP Deadline:** January 29, 2018

**Awards Announced:** March 2018

**Start Date:** May 1, 2018

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<sup>1</sup> Underserved populations include **low-income students (FARMS)**; students belonging to **race and ethnic minorities that are historically underrepresented in STEM (HUR)** (i.e., Alaska Natives, Native Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders); **students with disabilities (ADA)**; students with **English as a second language (ELLs)**; **first-generation college students (1stGEN)**; students in **rural, frontier, or other Federal targeted outreach schools (GEO)**; and **females in certain STEM fields (Gender)** (e.g., physical science, computer science, mathematics, or engineering). **\*Must meet at least 2 criteria.**



**BACKGROUND:** AEOP seeks to offer students and teachers a collaborative cohesive portfolio of Army sponsored STEM programs that affectively engage, inspire, and attract the next generation of STEM talent through K-college programs and expose them to STEM careers. From elementary school through graduate school, students of all proficiency levels, interests, ethnic, economic and academic backgrounds are encouraged to participate in real world experiences involving these important disciplines. Scientists, technology experts, engineers and mathematicians, who act as mentors and guides, introduce students to various levels of research and engineering and provide advice for technical skill development and career opportunities. Information about the programs can be found on the [AEOP website](#).

Through its programs, AEOP focuses on three primary goals:

- **STEM Literate Citizenry** – Broaden, deepen and diversify the pool of STEM talent in support of our defense industry base.
- **STEM Savvy Educators<sup>2</sup>** – Support and empower educators with unique Army research and technology resources.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure** – Develop and implement a cohesive, coordinated, and sustainable STEM education outreach infrastructure across the Army.

Battelle is the lead organization for the Consortium that was formed by the AEOP cooperative agreement. Consortium members include representatives from academia, industry, non-profit organizations and government. Existing Consortium members are the Academy of Applied Science (AAS), National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), Technology Student Association (TSA), Tennessee Technological University (TTU), Widmeyer Communications, Purdue University and MetriKs Amerique.

Requirements: Through this strategic outreach initiative RFP to support AEOP, the AEOP expects the awardees to:

- Promote and increase participation in the AEOP portfolio of programs.
- Become well versed in AEOP programming and information to actively answer questions and engage in AEOP communication efforts.
- Distribute AEOP materials and information when relevant at organization's STEM engagements to include but not limited to summer STEM camps, academies, STEM competitions, assemblies, parent nights, and teacher orientations.
- Utilize existing networks to promote participation and support of AEOP programs.

If you have questions, contact David Burns or Stephanie Johnson with Battelle.

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**RFI submissions will only be accepted online and can be submitted at:  
<https://battelleeducation.typeform.com/to/RapMLX>**

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<sup>2</sup> Currently, we are not accepting proposals for RESET.