



MY EXPERIENCE @ the 1st Annual Newark STEM Ecosystem Convening

A group of educators gathered in 2024 at the 1st Annual Newark STEM Ecosystem convening, which Professor Gates co-chaired with Bruce Bukiet and Jim Lipuma, professors at NJIT. The purpose of the day was to bring together educators, STEM professionals, business, industry and foundations to explore how to invest more time, effort and money into STEM learning and career readiness programs.



WHAT WAS LEARNED

Gates was able to identify a group of like minded individuals with interest in improving Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of STEM majors and professions, with a specific interest focusing on mentorship programs



WHAT WAS DID WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE

Gates reached out to colleagues at Rutgers - Newark, the Garden State-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation ([GS-LSAMP](#)), the Newark City of Learning Collaborative ([NCLC](#)), the NJIT Collaborative for Leadership, Education and Assessment Research (CLEAR), the Newark Board of Education, Terra Science Fairs and OFC-TV, all of whom are connected through Newark STEM. Together they discussed developing a visual pathway system of socially proximal mentors-mentees from high school to career in Newark, NJ



THE RESULTS OF THE COLLABORATION

The group developed a proposal to recruit participants, develop mentoring activities, create a media awareness pathway, and develop a continuous feedback system to evaluate and research. This proposal was submitted for a National Science Foundation grant of \$4.2 million in the fall of 2024 under the Racial Diversity in STEM program. Regardless of the grant submission results, participants are committed to launching the program in late 2025 or early 2026.

