



20 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING STEM

# The Power of Collaboration: Strategies & Lessons Learned from the NGCP Network

# NGCP Vision

The vision of the National Girls Collaborative Project is to **support and create STEM experiences** that are as **diverse as the world we live in.**



# Our Goals

Connect + Create + Collaborate

1

**Build and sustain a network** of advocates to provide equitable and inclusive STEM opportunities.

2

**Catalyze equity in STEM** from research to practice by providing actionable knowledge that transforms the STEM experience.

3

**Increase our collective impact** by strengthening organizational effectiveness and enhancing our fiscal sustainability.



# NGCP Activities

- Network Partnerships
- IF/THEN Collection
- State Leadership Teams
- Youth Advisory Board



# NGCP Resources

- **National Webinars**

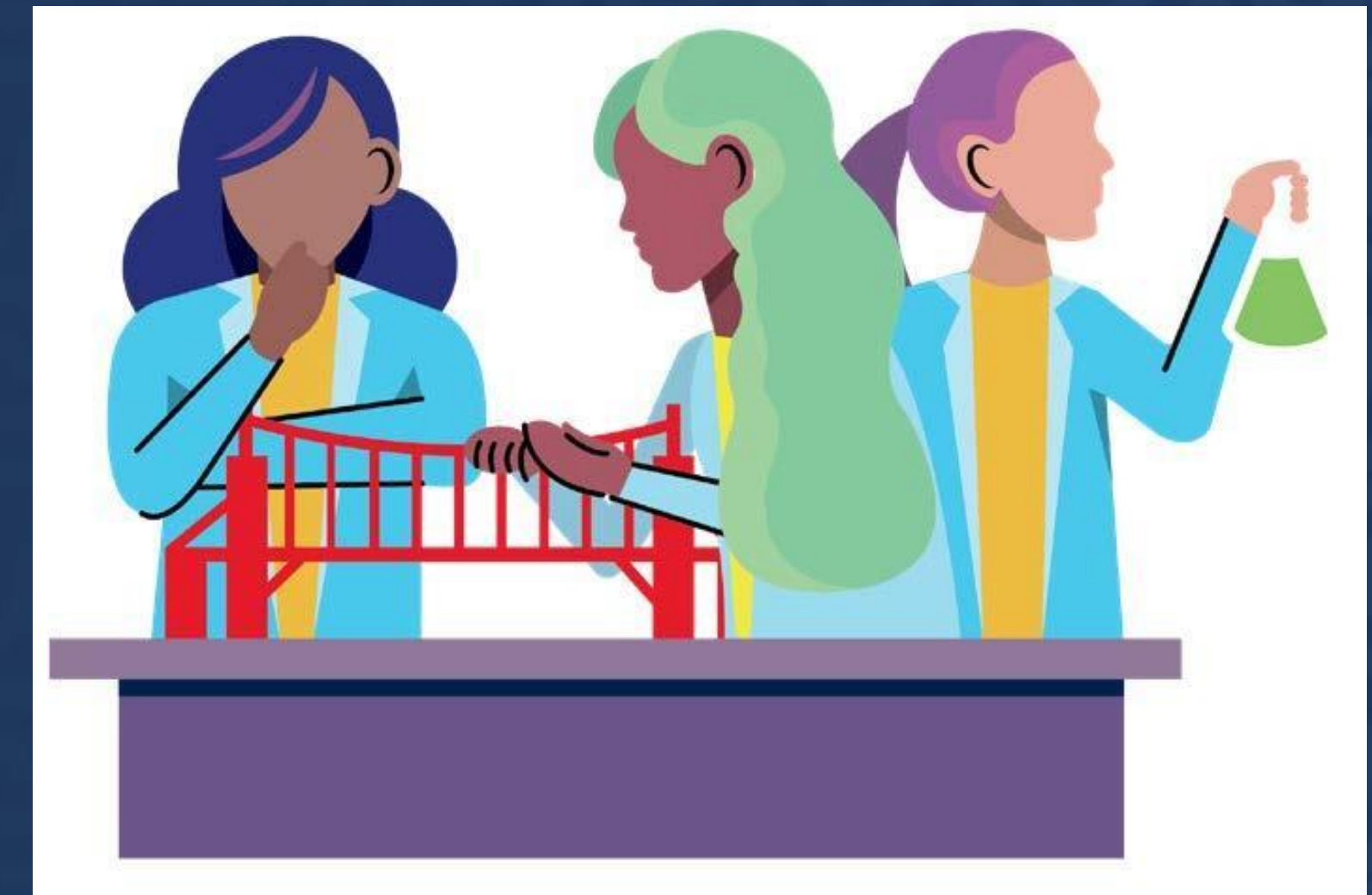
- Monthly on relevant topics, speakers include educators, researchers, authors, and diverse STEM professionals

- **Monthly Newsletter**

- National events, STEM resources for girls and youth, professional development opportunities for educators, and research and reports

- **NGCP Website**

- Exemplary Practices pages on Engaging Girls in STEM and Access and Equity, blog posts, and statistics and research related to girls and women in STEM



# Speakers



**Karen Peterson**

Founder and CEO of NGCP



**Dr. Brenda Britsch**

Director of Researcher and Evaluation at NGCP



# Collaboration Networking

- Breakout rooms of 2-3 people
- Introduce Yourself
  - Organization, Program/Role
  - What do you **NEED** to meet your goals
  - What Resources do **YOU** have to share?
  - Two Minutes Each



What  
interesting  
connections  
did you make?





# Defining Collaboration

The process of achieving a goal that could NOT be attained efficiently by an individual or organization acting alone.



# Why Collaborate?

- Efforts to support youth in STEM are often uncoordinated and disconnected.
- Collaboration increases access to scarce resources.
- Collaboration increases capacity to serve young people in STEM.
- Others?



# Why Collaboration is Important

High levels of collaboration among educators and programs engaging girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) increases the efficiency and effectiveness and overall capacity of programs and therefore increases opportunities and improves experiences for girls in STEM.



# Challenges to Collaboration

- Collaboration may take more time.
- Lack of trust between partners.
- Organizational systems may not encourage collaboration.
- Others?



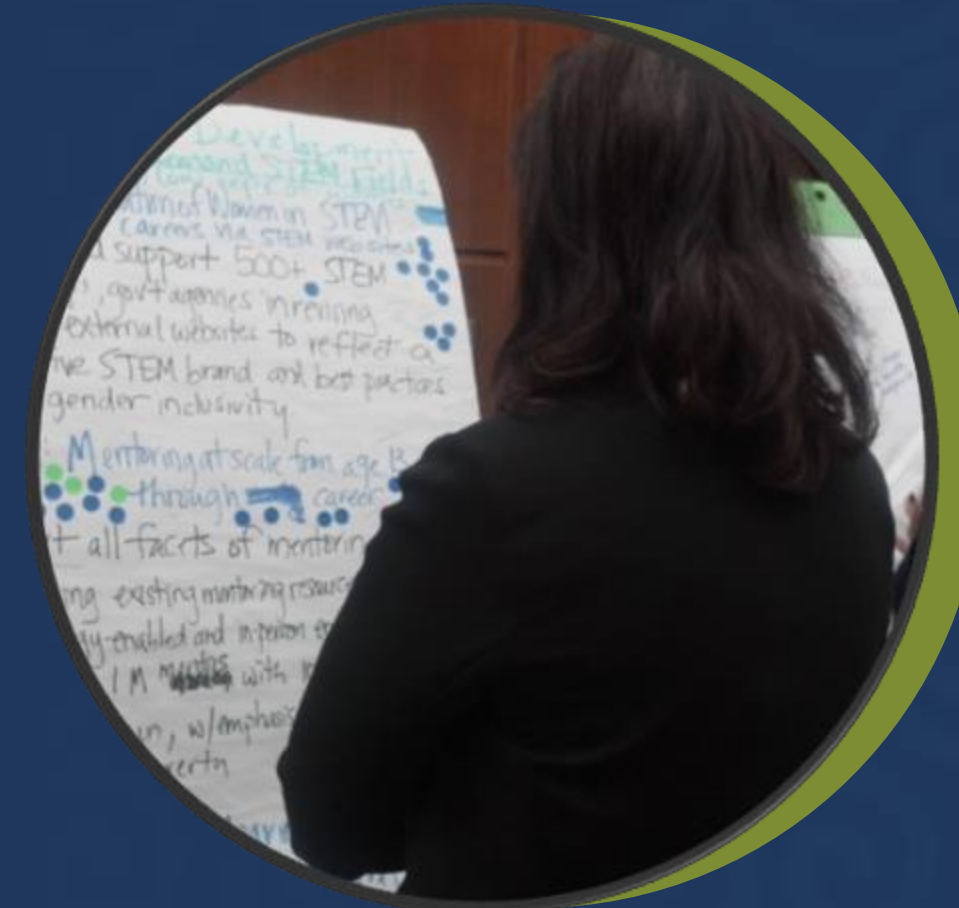
# Exemplary Practices in Successful Collaborations



Prepare



Look



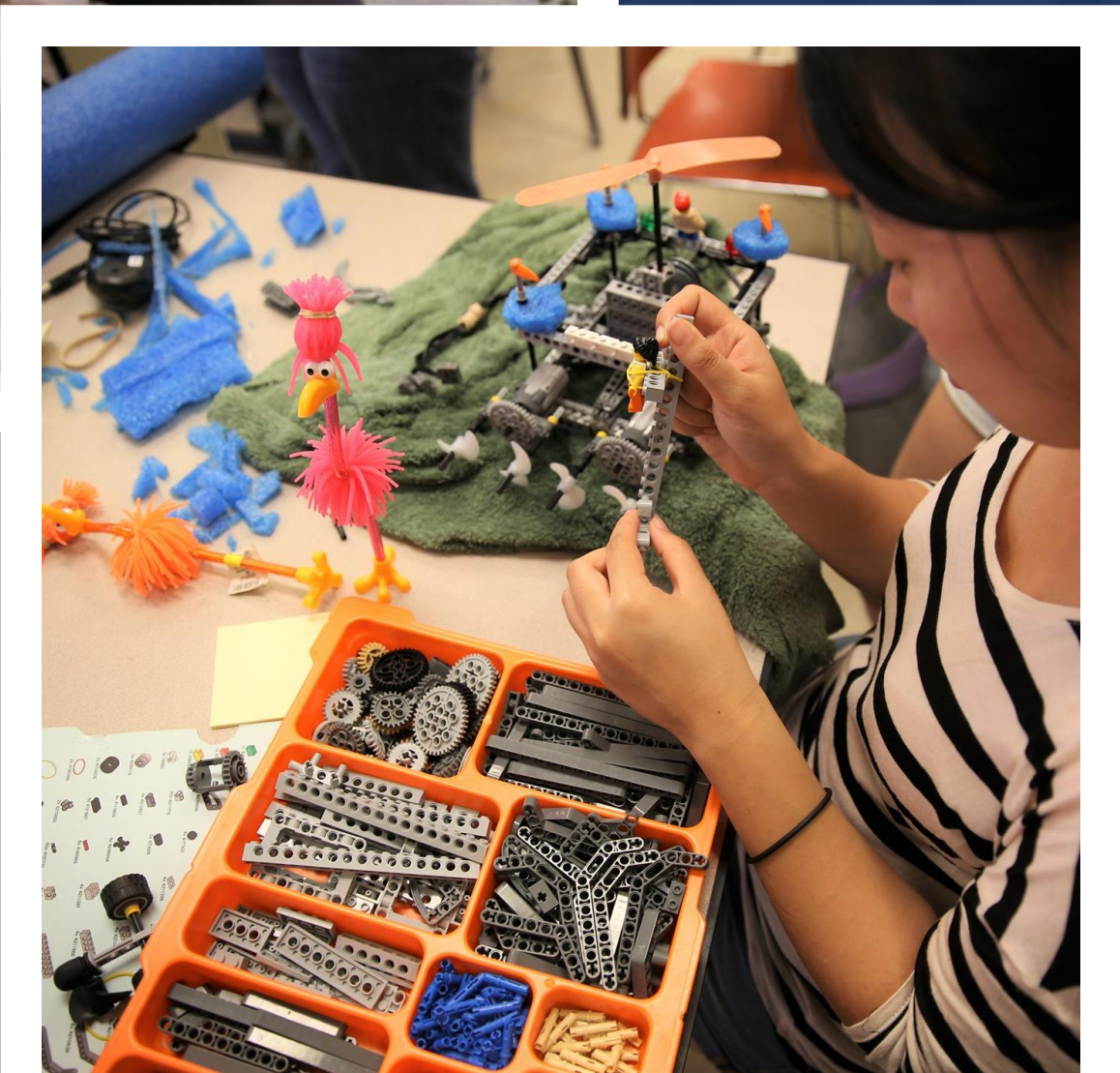
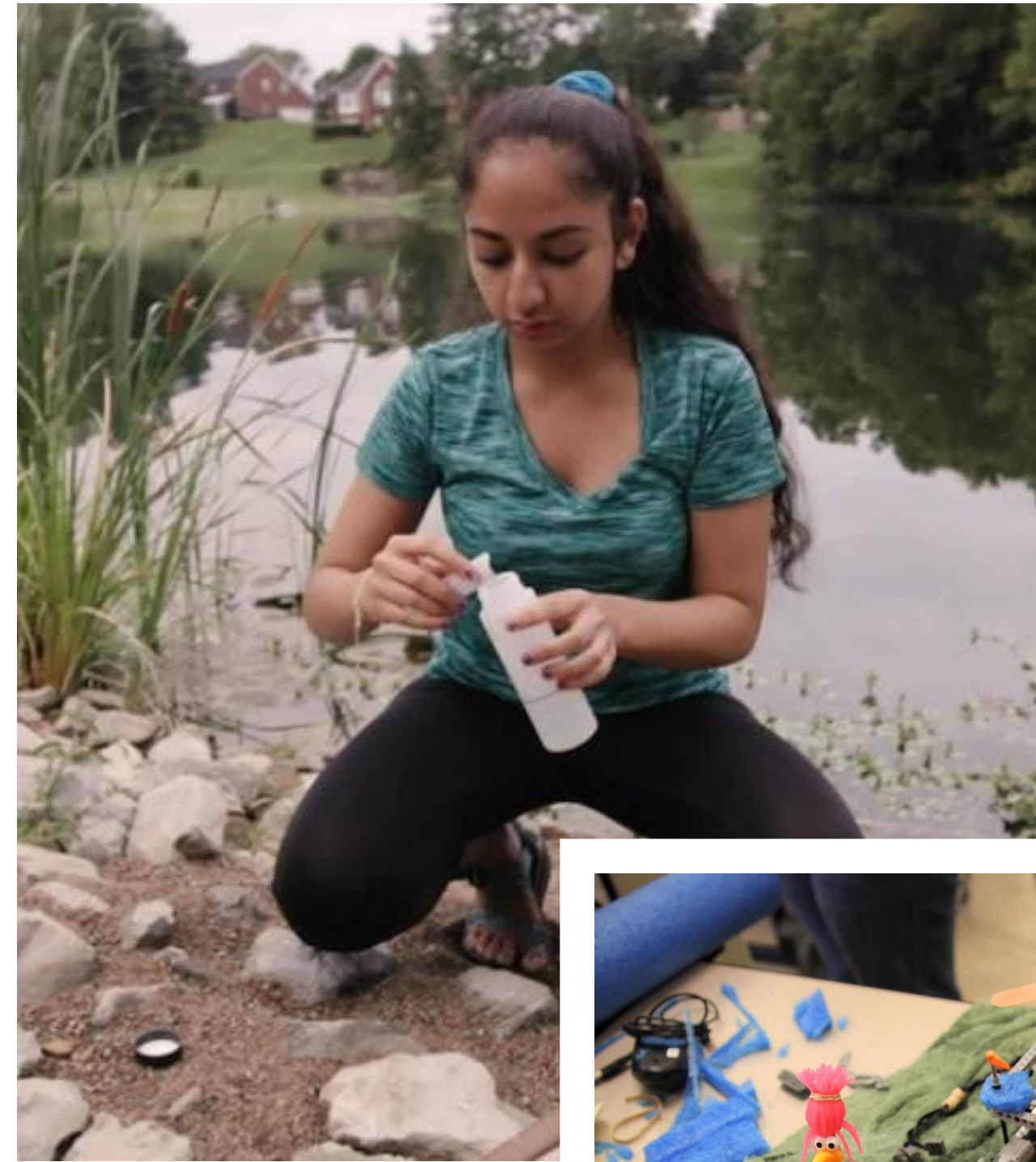
Plan



Build

# Prepare to Collaborate

- **Reflect** on past collaborations and the characteristics of successful or ineffective collaborations.
- Create a **short summary** of your program services to share when you first meet potential collaborators.
- Organizational Strengths, Needs, Resources



# Look for Collaborators

- Locate the “home” of your audience who can benefit from your program and services.
- Identify assistance, resources or guides.
- Network with purpose.



# Plan for a successful collaboration

- Be flexible and patient.
- Be explicit about project benefits for each partner.
- Create a collaboration agreement.





# Build a successful collaborative project

- Communicate frequently to move the work forward.
- Adapt as project personnel, plans, and needs change.
- Celebrate successes.
- Debrief the collaboration.



# Collaboration Mash-Up

- Design a collaborative girl-serving STEM project that benefits all of your organizations.
- You have a \$1,000 mini-grant.
- We'll share your projects in about 8 minutes.



# Share Out

- What is your project?
- Did you find ways for all partners to contribute?
- How did you use the \$1,000?



# Collaboration Resources

- Exemplary Practices in Creating Successful Collaborations
- Collective Impact Forum: Collective Impact Resources
- The Intersector Toolkit: Tools for Cross-Sector Collaboration
- Wilder Foundation Collaboration Resources



# Q & A

We'll take questions from the chat and from people using the 'hand raise' function.



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Learn more at [ngcproject.org](https://ngcproject.org)