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ACRES

Afterschool Coaching for
Reflective Educators in STEM

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ACRES is a high quality professional development experience that pairs learning and practicing skills essential to STEM programming with facilitated peer-to-peer coaching in an active online environment. Participants learn and practice skills that research has shown are key to being an effective STEM facilitator. After returning to their program and practicing the skill, they are coached in a small, collegial atmosphere, viewing each others' video-recorded interactions with youth around these targeted skills.

“The greatest strength of the ACRES course was being able to share videos and receive input from peers. Seeing how others implemented what we were learning, and how kids responded, was an invaluable learning tool.”

Professional Learning Community

ACRES participants valued receiving feedback, the feeling of camaraderie, and sharing struggles and lessons learned.

Participants identified the facilitation skills of the coach as a strength of the training, citing that the coach gave good feedback and made the participants feel comfortable throughout the process.

Expert Facilitation

“[My coach] was amazing. I got excellent feedback from her. It was nice to take a fresh look at my STEM programming facilitation skills. It helped me to reevaluate what I am doing, check in with myself and be more reflective.”

“This course is well suited for anyone that works with youth in a group setting. While the topics covered are geared towards STEM activities, I found the information useful for other activities that I do with youth.”

Universal Application

Participants felt that the skills taught in the course were universally beneficial to anyone working with youth in libraries or in education.

ACRES training is widely valued by participants.

96% of ACRES participants would recommend the course to someone else

93% of participants would take another course in the same format

89% of participants felt their work with youth changed after an ACRES course

100% of participants stated that they benefited from the sharing of others in their group.

“I learned so many tips and tricks about working with kids, and I’ve never even run a science program before. I’m in the process of establishing a STEM club, so this has been the catalyst and has given me the confidence to do that.”

“Purposeful Questions have been so powerful and impactful for me and the way I teach ... ACRES is one of the few courses I’ve had that when it is over I am still using what I learned. It has made me a better teacher and made my students better learners.”

