

# Science Career Ladder-Explainers



New York Hall of Science

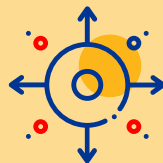
**Accredited Member of the STEM PUSH Network**



The New York Hall of Science's **Science Career Ladder program** provides opportunities for NYC high school and college youth—titled **Explainers**—to develop career-building skills, grow from professional mentorship, participate in STEM learning opportunities, and engage with our visitors. Through co-facilitation and co-creation, Explainers elevate youth voice in the design and iteration of museum content, activities and exhibit development, as well as educational programming.

**The Science Career Ladder program emphasizes & develops several targeted outcomes, including:**

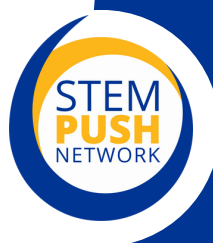
- Develop skills in communication, collaboration, and leadership
- Build their confidence and agency in STEM activities and spaces
- Ability to work in a collaborative environment
- Fosters a sense of belonging and STEM identity
- Ability to **make connections** between STEM content and real-world experiences, especially societal and community problems related to their own backgrounds



Students demonstrate these skills through engagement with museum visitors and peers.

## About STEM PUSH

STEM PUSH, an NSF INCLUDES Alliance, is a national network of pre-college STEM programs who engage youth historically underrepresented in STEM to learn & do in-depth, authentic science, and ultimately to persist in STEM through college & beyond. MSA Accreditation credentials programs for continuous improvement in these areas. More information available at [stempushnetwork.org](http://stempushnetwork.org).



## Features of Explainers

**Accredited** by MSA for broadening participation in STEM, one of the first in the country to earn this

Builds agency and science communication around

**Engineering & Design** 

Explainers participate for **at least 1 year**

**>250 hours** of engagement per year

**Paid hourly** at/above NYC minimum wage

**70** high school student Explainers each year

**85%** of Explainers are underrepresented in STEM

## Explainers' Results

**85%** of Explainers increased their understanding of STEM's relevance in their life and the world

**90%** of Explainers report an ability to discuss complex STEM topics across audiences

**95%** of Explainers attend college, with 70% of those declaring STEM majors

## Alumni have attended the following institutions:

- Boston University
- Brown University
- City University of New York (CUNY)
  - Hunter College
  - City College
- Cornell University
- New York University
- Stony Brook University
- University of Michigan
- Wheaton College

## College engagement

The Science Career Ladder also engages local college students, enabling them to benefit from the program's college and career support offerings. The program team supports alum during the transitional first year of college, maintaining a strong community of support.

## Science Career Ladder Partners

- CUNY Cultural and Service Corps
- Bloomberg Arts Internship program
- International High Schools

## And a range of industry partners including

- Amazon
- Metlife
- BNY Mellon

# The Science Career Ladder

The Science Career Ladder (SCL) is the New York Hall of Science's signature youth and workforce development initiative with a mission to address the systemic inequities facing minoritized high school and college-aged students from New York City. Since its founding in 1986, the Science Career Ladder has served thousands of diverse young people and been a model for at least two dozen similar programs worldwide.

NYSCI's SCL takes place in Corona, Queens one of the most diverse cities in New York. This prestigious program helps students gain access to high-quality STEM education and opportunities that provide pathways to careers in the 21st century technology-driven workforce.



Throughout high school, I progressed through so many NYSCI programs. I learned engineering, design thinking and digital communication. As someone who's introverted, I was able to come out of my shell, and I've learned not to doubt my own capabilities.



### Explainers develop and demonstrate their STEM skills through engagement with museum visitors and peers in various ways, including:

- Actively engaging visitors at interactive science and technology exhibits
- Facilitating design-based activities for visitors
- Learning and performing science-based demonstrations, bringing the excitement of STEM to diverse audiences
- Peer to peer mentoring and support
- Contributing to projects that broaden the ways they engage with stem ([see example](#))

**Connect with the Science Career Ladder!**



Contact Shihadah Saleem at [ssaleem@nysci.org](mailto:ssaleem@nysci.org)

New York Hall of Science

More information about the Science Career Ladder is available at [nysci.org/science-career-ladder](https://nysci.org/science-career-ladder)