

University of North Carolina Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

Science Festival Expansion FUTURES

Our North Carolina Science Festival brings awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and the educational, cultural and scientific impact of STEM activities annually to people across the state. A \$1,000,000 Traditional grant over five years will support a Science Festival expansion project "*Featuring Underrepresented Talent in Urban and Rural Engagement with Science*" (FUTURES). FUTURES will highlight two year STEM degrees obtained at North Carolina community colleges. The grant highlights the need for a STEM workforce with associate degrees from community colleges. An additional key component in this grant is the recruitment and training of 250 new community college students and faculty to serve as FUTURES team members to lead STEM outreach and engagement activities in their communities. FUTURES team members will be represented across the state representing the vast diversity of NC careers in STEM. The expansion will include all 58 community colleges hosting events during the North Carolina Science Festival events. The grant period begins in 2019 and ends in 2024.