

**Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and the Office of STEM Education at UNC-Charlotte  
Partnership**

**Partner organizations to support STEM teaching and learning – Higher Education**

**School**

Name of school: Charlotte Mecklenburg School system

Location of school: Charlotte NC

Year opened: NA

Number of teachers: 9700

Grades of students: PreK-12

Number of students: 140,000

School web address: [www.cms.k12.nc.us](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us)

Presenter name and email address: Cindy Moss, Ph.D. [cindy.moss@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:cindy.moss@cms.k12.nc.us)

**Schools Description**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools serve 140,000 students and is one of the 25<sup>th</sup> largest school districts in the US. Our student population is diverse with more than 55% of the students qualifying for free and/or reduced lunch. Students come from more than 120 countries. Our STEM initiatives are part of a broad spectrum of learning experiences for students and teachers PreK-12. CMS just received the Broad Award (sometimes called the SuperBowl for urban education) for progress in decreasing achievement gaps for our students in large urban schools.

**Partner organization**

Name of organization: Office of STEM Education at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Location of organization: Charlotte NC

Partner name and email address: David Pugalee, Ph.D, Director of the Office of STEM Education

Partner title: Director of the Office of STEM Education

Partner role with school: David is the Director of the STEM Education Office at UNCC

Organization focus: connecting STEM professors and university resources with K-12 education and the STEM community

Why STEM is important to your organization: The office of STEM Education is funded by the state of NC to strengthen the STEM pipeline in NC

### **Partnerships**

How do you define partnership?: A partnership is a collaboration between 2 entities to accomplish a common goal

What does a good partnership model look like?: A good partnership has benefits for both groups. I personally think most K-12 personnel forget that we have much to offer. When a business wants to get their message out to our students they are excited that we have 11,000 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Educators need to remember that we do not need to approach potential partners with our hands out and we do have much to offer. In many of our partnerships we provide opportunities for our partners to learn about educational initiatives (like Common Core) or provide them with samples of our inquiry materials to use with their students (education classes).

What is required of each member of a partnership to make it successful?: Each partner needs to have a strength or area of expertise to bring to the partnership. An example of this is that we may work with a college and use the expertise of their faculty to teach content, with our master teachers adding their expertise to create learning experiences that are most appropriate for our students. We each share in the product of the partnership.