STEM CAREERS + FAMILIES: LEARNING CENTERS AND MUSEUMS BY LINDA KEKELIS, PHD AND KARA SAMMET, PHD.

As part of the STEM Next Opportunity Fund's Family Engagement Project, this case study features the family engagement work of the New York Hall of Science, NYSCI, and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, OMSI. Both NYSCI and OMSI are innovation museums that help families better understand the connection between STEM in museums, in their homes and future career pathways.

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The case study offers four strategies for museums to deploy to support families make connections to STEM both at home and for future careers for their children. The strategies include:

1. **MAKING PROGRAMS MULTI-GENERATIONAL AND MULTI-CARETAKER.** This means being inclusive to native languages and the entire family of a child attending the museum.
2. **HELPING YOUTH AND PARENTS MAKE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN STEM ACTIVITIES AND STEM CAREERS.** NYSCI and OMSI offer programming for families, including events with local businesses, that help demystify career opportunities, pathways and relevant skills for STEM careers.
3. **INTRODUCING FAMILIES TO DIVERSE AND EFFECTIVE ROLE MODELS.** Both institutions feature role model profiles and or invite mentors into the museums to map out what careers in STEM look like for children and their families. By showcasing the professionals as real people, families and students are able to see themselves reflected, thus inspiring future engineers and chemists.
4. **STARTING EARLY.** Research has shown that the earlier children are exposed to STEM opportunities the better. Additional studies are offered to readers.

Kekelis, Linda and Sammet, Kara. 2019 "STEM Careers + Families: Learning Centers and Museums." STEM Next Opportunity Fund Family Engagement Project. **<https://43ot971vwwe7okplr1iw2ql1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Case-Study-Learning-from-Museum-and-Centers.pdf>**