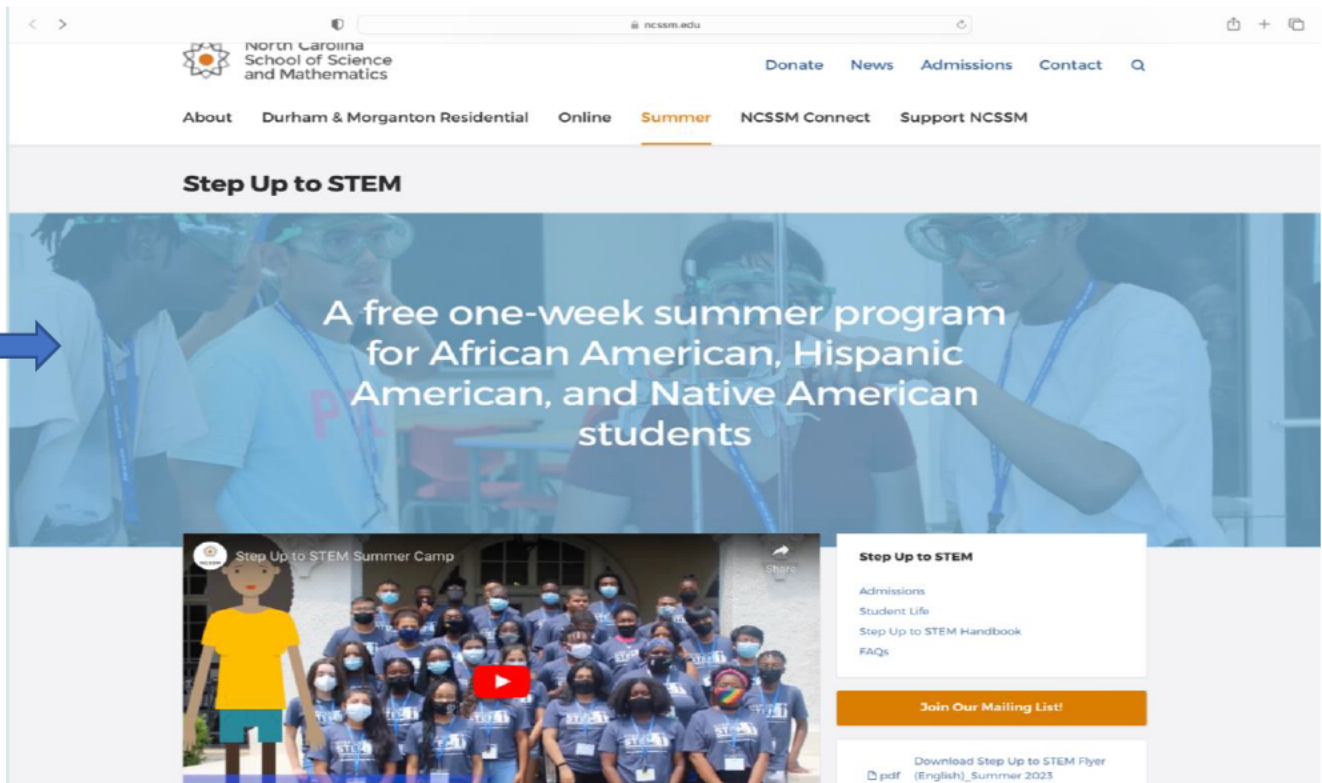




EXHIBIT A




North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

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Step Up to STEM

A free one-week summer program for African American, Hispanic American, and Native American students

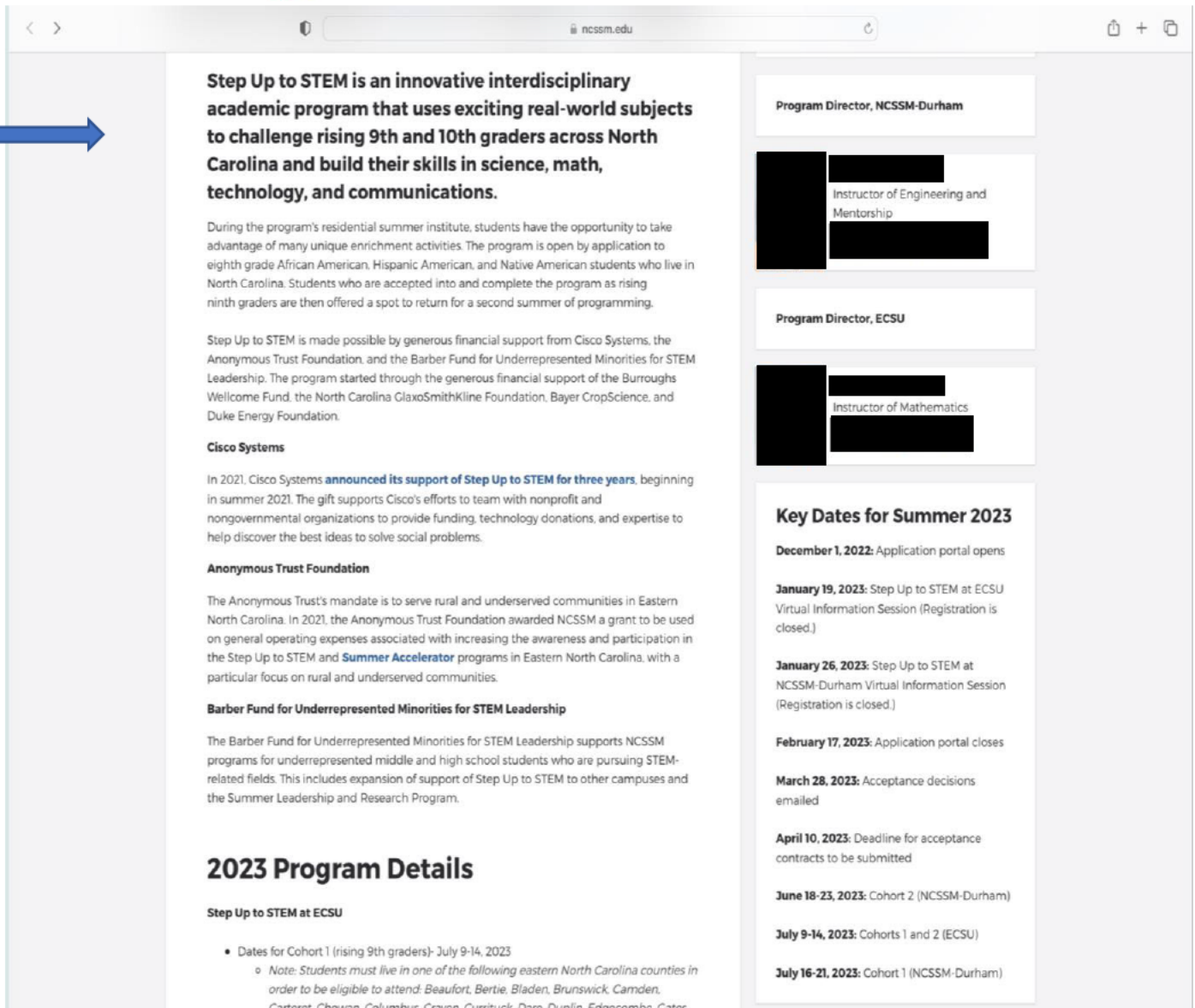


Step Up to STEM

- Admissions
- Student Life
- Step Up to STEM Handbook
- FAQs

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Download Step Up to STEM Flyer (English)_Summer 2023 pdf



Step Up to STEM is an innovative interdisciplinary academic program that uses exciting real-world subjects to challenge rising 9th and 10th graders across North Carolina and build their skills in science, math, technology, and communications.

During the program's residential summer institute, students have the opportunity to take advantage of many unique enrichment activities. The program is open by application to eighth grade African American, Hispanic American, and Native American students who live in North Carolina. Students who are accepted into and complete the program as rising ninth graders are then offered a spot to return for a second summer of programming.

Step Up to STEM is made possible by generous financial support from Cisco Systems, the Anonymous Trust Foundation, and the Barber Fund for Underrepresented Minorities for STEM Leadership. The program started through the generous financial support of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, Bayer CropScience, and Duke Energy Foundation.

Cisco Systems

In 2021, Cisco Systems **announced its support of Step Up to STEM for three years**, beginning in summer 2021. The gift supports Cisco's efforts to team with nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations to provide funding, technology donations, and expertise to help discover the best ideas to solve social problems.

Anonymous Trust Foundation

The Anonymous Trust's mandate is to serve rural and underserved communities in Eastern North Carolina. In 2021, the Anonymous Trust Foundation awarded NCSSM a grant to be used on general operating expenses associated with increasing the awareness and participation in the Step Up to STEM and **Summer Accelerator** programs in Eastern North Carolina, with a particular focus on rural and underserved communities.

Barber Fund for Underrepresented Minorities for STEM Leadership

The Barber Fund for Underrepresented Minorities for STEM Leadership supports NCSSM programs for underrepresented middle and high school students who are pursuing STEM-related fields. This includes expansion of support of Step Up to STEM to other campuses and the Summer Leadership and Research Program.

2023 Program Details

Step Up to STEM at ECSU

- Dates for Cohort 1 (rising 9th graders)- July 9-14, 2023
 - Note: Students must live in one of the following eastern North Carolina counties in order to be eligible to attend: Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edaecombe, Gates

Program Director, NCSSM-Durham

Instructor of Engineering and Mentorship

Program Director, ECSU

Instructor of Mathematics

Key Dates for Summer 2023

December 1, 2022: Application portal opens

January 19, 2023: Step Up to STEM at ECSU Virtual Information Session (Registration is closed.)

January 26, 2023: Step Up to STEM at NCSSM-Durham Virtual Information Session (Registration is closed.)

February 17, 2023: Application portal closes

March 28, 2023: Acceptance decisions emailed

April 10, 2023: Deadline for acceptance contracts to be submitted

June 18-23, 2023: Cohort 2 (NCSSM-Durham)

July 9-14, 2023: Cohorts 1 and 2 (ECSU)

July 16-21, 2023: Cohort 1 (NCSSM-Durham)

Tyrell, Washington, and Wayne.

- Dates for Cohort 2 (rising 10th graders)- July 9-14, 2023
 - Note: Only students who were accepted into and completed cohort 1 of Step Up to STEM at ECSU in Summer 2022 are eligible to attend.
- To view the Summer 2022 program schedule, [click here to view the Step Up to STEM at ECSU website](#). Check back in Spring 2023 to view the Summer 2023 program schedule.

Step Up to STEM at NCSSM- Durham

- Dates for Cohort 1 (rising 9th graders)- July 16-21, 2023
 - Note: Students must live in one of the following North Carolina counties in order to be eligible to attend: Alexander, Alamance, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Graham, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hoke, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Watauga, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey.
- Dates for Cohort 2 (rising 10th graders)- June 18-23, 2023
 - Note: Only students who were accepted into and completed cohort 1 of Step Up to STEM in Summer 2022 are eligible to attend.
- To view the Summer 2022 program schedule, [click here to view the Step Up to STEM at NCSSM-Durham website](#). Check back in Spring 2023 to view the Summer 2023 program schedule.

For questions, please feel free to reach out to us in the following ways:

- Email: stepup@ncssm.edu
- Phone: [REDACTED]

For communication in Spanish, please contact Ms. Sierra Luz in one of the following ways:

- Email: [REDACTED]
- Phone: [REDACTED]

Step Up to STEM Coordinator

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Associate Director of STEM Outreach, Equity, and Engagement

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

learn, go to class, and have fun. That experience is the reason that I am more seriously considering a career that is focused on science and math. The classes provided allowed me to realize my love for math and helped me see how much fun science could be. That is why I want to continue to explore subjects that are related to science."

-- Step Up to STEM participant

"It's a great program where students of color can be immersed in a rigorous program within their community. The students get an extension of science/math and exposure to campus life with responsibility. The friendships that come from this program is definitely a plus."

-- Step Up to STEM Parent