



# Talking Points

**The purpose of this internal Talking Points document is to assist with providing consistent messaging about National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) goals and activities. Please use in discussions with partners, potential project participants, and other key stakeholders; however, this is not a public resource.**

## History and Organizational Information

- The National Girls Collaborative Project is a project of the EdLab Group. The EdLab Group is a private, non-profit organization based in Lynnwood, Washington which manages multiple projects and initiatives, primarily related to STEM education. The mission of the EdLab Group is to leverage the power of technology and diversity to transform teaching and learning.
- The NGCP began in 2002 as the Northwest Girls Collaborative Project funded in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- There are currently 28 Collaboratives, serving 38 states, facilitating collaboration between more than 12,800 organizations who serve more than 5.3 million girls. The NGCP continues to grow geographically and plans to add at least 3 more Collaboratives over the next three years.

## Program Directory

- The Program Directory is a critical online collaboration tool unique to the NGCP model.
- Projects and organizations enter basic program data into the directory, providing brief descriptions of organizational goals, population served, geographic location, and contact information.
- Program Directory entries also include needs and resources as a catalyst for collaboration.
- Users search by these variables to find potential partners to meet their needs, resulting in more effective use of resources among STEM programs.

### Reach of the NGCP

- **14,046,783** visits to the NGCP Web site in 4 years
- **2,457** programs listed in the Program Directory
- **23,583** participants served in **236** mini-grants completing activities
- **11,205** practitioners served

## NGCP Model

- The vision of the NGCP is to bring together organizations throughout the United States that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- The NGCP engages project participants from every sector including: K-12 educators, higher education faculty, industry and business leaders, community-based organizations, and government.
- The primary audience for resources and tools are K-12 informal educators.
- Project activities are designed to facilitate connections between organizations to maximize access to shared resources. Collaboration, as an interactive process, enables professionals across projects and communities to generate and carry out creative solutions and strategies that maximize benefit beyond what one project or community could accomplish.
- Small informal STEM programs participate in NGCP for:
  - assistance with leadership and training
  - engaging and educational STEM activities
  - access to girls or parents, role models and speakers, facilities, transportation, supplies for activities, and field trip sites.
- The NGCP Collaboration Model provides moral and intellectual support, as they often work in relative isolation from other informal educators.
- A benefit of participation in NGCP is the support of a community of individuals and organizations working together in an important national effort to improve STEM education for girls.

- The NGCP disseminates research-based exemplary practices to advance the work of existing and evolving girl-serving projects. Professional development events increase the knowledge of gender equitable educational practices, increase the awareness of the role of early education in STEM workforce development, and introduce strategies for effectively reaching and serving under-represented girls.
- The NGCP model is fluid and adaptable to local culture and opportunities and includes the following components:
  - Content and resources via an interactive website, that includes the online Program Directory and monthly e-newsletter
  - Project activities are implemented both locally and nationally with the support of Leadership Team and Champions Board members. More than 200 senior professionals serve as National and Collaborative Champions, helping promote and develop the network as a national leader in shaping communities of practice around informal STEM education for girls.
  - Local Collaboratives serve and connect local girl-serving STEM programs by holding in-person events, distributing a regional newsletter, awarding mini-grants, and increasing awareness of local resources.
  - In-person and online professional development events (Conferences and Forums)
  - Mini-grants as an incentive for collaborative projects
- The NGCP partners with many diverse organizations to help deliver on project objectives and create a robust national network. National partners include:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Afterschool Alliance</i></li> <li>○ <i>American Association of University Women (AAUW)</i></li> <li>○ <i>American School Counselor Association (ASCA)</i></li> <li>○ <i>American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Assessing Women and Men in Engineering (AWE)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Cisco</i></li> <li>○ <i>Coalition for Science After School</i></li> <li>○ <i>Cray Supercomputers</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Education Development Center (EDC)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Expanding Your Horizons (EYH)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Girl Scouts of the USA</i></li> <li>○ <i>Google</i></li> <li>○ <i>Microsoft</i></li> <li>○ <i>National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)</i></li> <li>○ <i>National Coalition of Girls' Schools</i></li> <li>○ <i>National Center for Women &amp; Information Technology (NCWIT)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Society of Women Engineers (SWE)</i></li> </ul>
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### **Sustainability of Collaboration**

**67%** of mini-grant awardees indicated their project would continue and **70%** indicated they would collaborate with their partners in other work. *A long-term goal of the NGCP that is a challenge to measure is to create the “tipping point” for gender equity in STEM. The tipping point is the moment when individual efforts are transformed into systemic, nation-wide change. Over 75% of survey respondents indicated NGCP had the potential to create the tipping point for gender equity in STEM.*