

# The Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program

STEM Early College High School Founder



The Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) program is a two-year incubator that supports future school founders as they design and launch new schools in St. Louis. We aim to select up to two entrepreneurs each year. For this cohort, we are adding an additional EIR opportunity specifically for the purpose of launching an Early College High School model focused on STEM careers.

## Building Schools for the Future

The Opportunity Trust believes that all students deserve a school that honors who they are and prepares them to thrive in our rapidly changing world. However, that promise goes unrealized for far too many students in St. Louis.

We are committed to supporting bold leaders who are working to provide families with the schools they deserve. The Entrepreneur-in-Residence program is an opportunity for school visionaries to imagine, design, pilot, and launch world-class schools in response to family and community needs in St. Louis.

## Early College STEM Concept

A group of regional partners – including universities, corporations, and local community leaders – have been convening for several months to outline key features of an Early College High School for STEM concept. The EIR – STEM Early College High School Founder would be working across these partners to turn that broad vision into a concrete school design and partnership model.

This school concept would draw from successful national models such as P-TECH and the Brooklyn STEAM Center.

## Why Early College STEM?

The Early College STEM model sets up students for success after high school graduation. Students select a career pathway in a high-demand STEM field (e.g., health sciences or technology) and complete an industry-recognized credential, college credits, and an internship within that field as part of their high school graduation requirements. Students then graduate with the skills, coursework, and experiences needed to either enter college with a significant number of credits already completed or begin immediate employment in a living-wage middle skill career.

# The Entrepreneur-In-Residence Experience

## Key Milestones

The EIR program is a self-driven, two-year process guided by key milestones to ensure your school is ready to launch by the completion of the program.

YEAR 1

Enlist a coalition of supporters and co-creators

Design and pilot your new school model

Complete and submit detailed school design

YEAR 2

Earn sponsor and/or launch approval

Recruit and on-board founding families and staff

Grow operational capacity

Prepare to launch

## Ecosystem of Support

As part of the fellowship, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence have access to numerous supports to help design and launch a world-class school for children in St. Louis, including:

### PEOPLE

- Regular meetings with a coach
- A broad network of co-creators, advisors, and formal supports

### EXPERIENCES

- Bi-weekly learning days
- Best-in-class insights

### TOOLS & RESOURCES

- Annual salary from \$90,000 to \$125,000 per year and health benefits
- Eligibility for a \$25K planning grant
- Access to curated research, templates, and tools



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Kimberly Townsend

FOUNDER, The Leadership School

“The EIR program has been invaluable to my journey to design and build an excellent school. The programmatic and coaching support has allowed me to learn from the best schools and education leaders around the country, ensuring that we build a school that will be successful from the first day.”

## About You

While we're actively seeking diverse profiles of leadership, successful applicants must demonstrate:

- An unwavering bar for excellence and a track record of results
- Track record of establishing new partnerships across a wide range of institutions
- Commitment to equity
- Curiosity and self-direction
- Strong people leadership
- A promising vision for a new school

The application window is from  
December 18, 2020–February 15, 2021

For more information or to apply:

[theopportunitytrust.org](http://theopportunitytrust.org)

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