



Conference and Festival - Saturday, March 23, 2019

“The dyslexic brain has exactly the skills we need for the workforce of tomorrow,” – Sir Richard Branson

The Dyslexic Edge: Pathways to STEM Excellence is driven by this idea so wonderfully encapsulated by Richard Branson. With the potential to have a heightened ability to think holistically and creatively, see the bigger picture, and develop enhanced spatial knowledge, people with dyslexia can be uniquely suited to solve the problems of tomorrow. Our initiative is designed to highlight these strengths, to lead a movement to create future STEM leaders and entrepreneurs by building confidence in students with dyslexia and equipping educators on helping them to learn.

The Dyslexic Edge: Pathways to STEM Excellence Conference is where we begin to change the conversation about dyslexia education. This conference, brought to you through a collaborative effort of the following organizations: George Mason University College of Sciences, Sliding Doors STEM & Dyslexia Learning Center, and Decoding Dyslexia Virginia, is intended for:

- Educators
- Industry professionals
- Parents
- Students from kindergarten to the university level

We will present a myriad of speakers, workshops, and panels all designed on how to best educate children with dyslexia so they ALL reach their full potential. Topics include:

- The science of dyslexia
- The STEM Dyslexia connection
- Best teaching practices in reading and in STEM fields
- Identifying dyslexia
- Assistive technology
- Evaluating for dyslexia
- Inspiring speakers with dyslexia
- And more!

The vision for the day includes a morning conference of sessions and speakers paired with an afternoon of STEM celebrations. During our STEM Celebrations, Children of all ages will get to participate in a variety of STEM activities, engineering challenges, and live demos. Our goal for this event is bring new people from industry and education into the conversation so that ALL of us can help these children become our future STEM leaders. This conference is the first step in an initiative that will spawn into summer camps, a teaching academy, and more.

To make this event a success, we are looking to build a network of partners who will support it in a variety of ways. We are currently looking for:

- Corporate and Private Sponsors – Facilities sponsor, t-shirt sponsor, VIP Luncheon, speaker fees
- Speakers/ Panelists
- Booths for STEM-A-Palooza
- Social Media Partners

