STEM Connector

Explore Your Potential
Connect With Community
Learn Beyond Your Scope

STEM Connector is a **flash mentorship** program connecting post-secondary **STEM students** with **industry professionals**, **researchers**, and other students for **professional development**.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

STEM Connector is a free mentorship program hosted online through Trova in Slack and is open to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) college and university students, industry professionals, and researchers across Atlantic Canada. This program is facilitated through DeepSense, SURGE Innovation, and ShiftKey Labs, with online registration available on any of their websites.

DeepSense is a project through Dalhousie University that unites the next generation of artificial intelligence and machine learning experts with companies wanting to harness the potential of data and lead a smarter ocean economy.
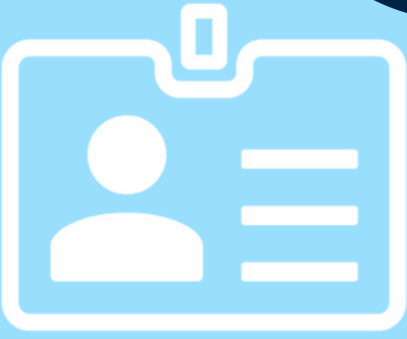
SURGE Innovation is a sciences sandbox at Dalhousie University providing applied training in the skills needed to develop innovative solutions to real problems.

ShiftKey Labs is a Nova Scotian sandbox focused on computer science and technology, which makes sure students have the skills and support they need to pursue their most innovative ideas.
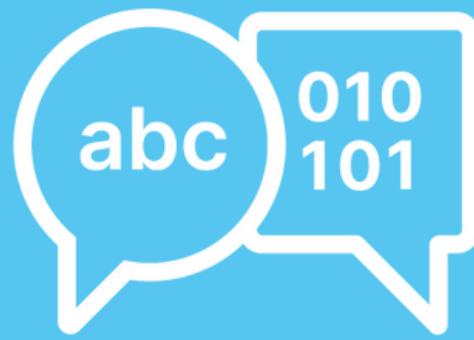
1

STEM CONNECTOR PLATFORM

Create an engaging, flexible space online on Trova in Slack for members to explore their potential, connect with the community, and learn beyond their scope.

2

STEM CONNECTOR CURRENT

Keep members informed on the program, relevant events, and STEM opportunities with a bimonthly email newsletter.

3

STEM CONNECTOR SOCIAL

Provide an opportunity for members to use and improve their skills through networking in person and introduce the program to new people with an event every term.

FLASH MENTORSHIP

Flash mentorship is modern mentoring focused on time efficiency and convenience of knowledge sharing with multiple mentors and mentees with no long-term commitments. Mentees can meet with a mentor once or a couple of times for specific questions. This type of mentorship gives mentees the opportunity to meet with multiple people who have experience and advice immediately applicable to their current situation.

Flash mentorship can be beneficial specifically for adult learners. Learning outside the classroom as an adult can be very different from what it felt like to be a child at school. It's helpful to understand that adult learning is generally more engaging when it is self-directed and hands-on. Adult learners should set their own goals, challenge their perspectives, and apply new knowledge immediately to real-world problems.

PROGRAM DETAILS

When first joining Trova in Slack, members are prompted to complete a profile showcasing their educational and professional background, interests, and mentoring preferences (mentor, mentee, or both). Trova offers a Magic Intro feature that automatically matches you with like-minded community members every two weeks if your profile is complete. Members can also use Random Introduction or the Directory to connect with others who share their interests.

After the initial self-introductions and the exchange of basic information, meeting times can be scheduled for either in-person or online. There is no limit on the number of meetings. Mentoring connections can be for specific one-time questions or extended like traditional mentoring relationships. It is okay to end a mentoring relationship if it is not the right match or is no longer serving you.

STEM Connector follows a four-month term structure aligned with the standard post-secondary schedule: September to December, January to April, and May to August. Accounts can be created at any time and will remain active unless the member chooses to "Snooze my account" in the Trova settings.

MEMBERSHIP

Mentees have an opportunity to uncover their potential through engaging in mentoring activities and thoughtful discussion prompts, connect and network with the vibrant Atlantic Canadian STEM community, and learn beyond their scope to discover non-traditional career pathways and gain fresh perspectives.

Mentees should commit at least four hours per month during a four-month term to meet with mentors and participate in meaningful and productive discussions.

Mentors are expected to enthusiastically share insights about their career paths and be eager to assist post-secondary STEM students in exploring their potential and the diverse opportunities within STEM fields. Mentors have an opportunity to engage with emerging talent, gain insights into fresh perspectives and upcoming trends within their field, and contribute to the STEM and post-secondary community by giving back.

Mentors are expected to dedicate at least two hours per month over a four-month term to engage with their mentees.

Step 1: Create a profile on MentorCity.
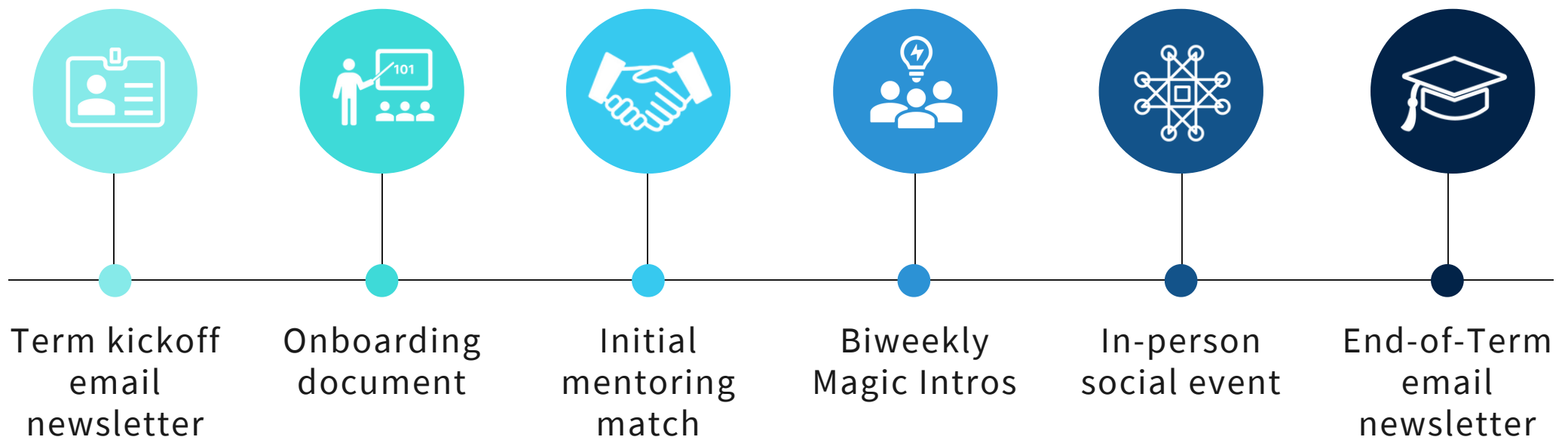Step 2: Browse members, and request meetings.
Step 3: Prepare for and have meetings.
Step 4: Continue or end mentoring relationships.
Repeat Steps 2-4.

STEM Connector

What to Expect from Us

| Term kickoff email newsletter | Onboarding document | Initial mentoring match | Biweekly Magic Intros | In-person social event | End-of-Term email newsletter |

What We Expect from You

- **Completed, honest profiles**
- **Browsing and connecting with members**
- **Preparing for mentoring meetings**
- **Thoughtful discussion responses**
- **Active participation**
- **Program feedback and renewal (if desired)**

In using the mentorship platform, members agree to the following.

- You are over 18 years of age.
- You commit to preserving professionalism and ensuring the safety of all members by following guidelines from Dalhousie University's Student Code of Conduct, Statement of Prohibited Discrimination, and Sexualized Violence Policy.
- You will not attempt to sell products or services through STEM Connector.
- You will not attempt to solicit jobs through STEM Connector.
- You will maintain the confidentiality of all information shared within all mentoring connections and discussions.
- You will provide truthful and accurate information throughout program participation.
- You will remain active in mentoring connections and discussions during the four-month term you are registered for.
- You have a sincere interest in STEM careers and making connections.

GLOSSARY

Flash Mentorship
modern mentoring focuses on time efficiency and convenience of knowledge sharing with multiple mentors and mentees with no long-term commitments

Slack
Slack is a cloud-based freemium cross-platform instant messaging app for business

Trova in Slack
a Slack app that enhances meaningful mentorship connections by pairing members through common interests and profile introductions

Member
anyone with a profile on MentorCity

Mentee
anyone in the broad role of learner in a mentoring relationship, regardless of age or position

Mentor
anyone in the broad role of professional in a mentoring relationship providing guidance

Post-Secondary Student
anyone enrolled in college or university

Scope
field of study, industry

STEM
science, technology, engineering, math

Term
block of four months (September to December, January to April, May to August)