



*“Giving High School Students a
Voice in Their STEM Education”*

SACOT

THE STEM ADVOCACY CONFERENCE OF TEXAS

What is SACOT?

- ▶ Organization created to help spread STEM through advocacy in local and state governments of Texas
- ▶ Brings together like-minded high school STEM students throughout Texas

Why is SACOT important?

- ▶ To improve the future of students
 - ▷ More access to STEM education and programs
- ▶ To improve the future of Texas
 - ▷ Increasing the number of applicants available for STEM related jobs
- ▶ SACOT will provide support, training, and resources to its members to advocate for STEM related legislation

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3 Major Problems

1

STEM Increase

1,360,684

STEM jobs in Texas right now

2,400,000

Unfilled STEM jobs by 2018

17%

Increase STEM
2000-2018

9.4%

Increase Non-STEM
2008-2018

2

Lack of STEM

- ▶ Many communities lacking access to Internet/STEM
- ▶ No funding or infrastructure
- ▶ For example - students in some communities of McAllen, Texas have no Internet at home and must go to school to use WiFi



③

Lack of STEM Educators

- ▶ No teachers and no access
 - ▷ “lack of certified STEM teachers”
- ▶ Less than 15% of Texas high schools offered the AP Computer Science course in 2013-2014

WE CAN
CHANGE
THE **FUTURE**
OF TEXAS

How does SACOT help Texas?

- ▶ Help educate state, local, and school governments about the importance of STEM, and how to reach high school students
- ▶ Advocating for legislation to spread STEM
- ▶ Give a voice to underserved communities
- ▶ Organize and represent the opinions of high school students relative to STEM

Annual Conference

- ▶ Update members about STEM issues and current STEM legislation
- ▶ Decide upon platform issues and yearly goals
- ▶ Train members on advocacy techniques
- ▶ Meet with legislators about platform issues

Our Ask

- ▶ Support HB 395
 - ▷ Gives weighted funding for courses such as Computer Science
 - ▷ Improves teacher certifications for these rigorous classes
- ▶ Inform Schools about UIL Robotics
 - ▷ FIRST and BEST robotics are now UIL competitions, providing funding for schools

Our Vision

In the next few years our goals include...

- ▶ 1,000-2,000 members from all parts of Texas
- ▶ Meet with every Texas legislator
- ▶ Making SACOT a well-known organization that provides insight into the “Voice of STEM High-School Students in Texas”

Feedback and Questions

- ▶ What do you think about a high school organization like SACOT?
- ▶ How can SACOT be impactful?
- ▶ What do you think are the most current, important issues in STEM?
 - ▷ Suggestions for platform issues?



*Thank
You!*