STEM Initiatives at Lehman College.

Lehman’s new science facility is an important “bridge to the future” for STEM. It is the first new laboratory building in what has been hailed as “CUNY’s Decade of Science” and the first CUNY project to be designed and submitted for LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certifica­tion. This facility (Science Hall) built at a cost of $70 million with a total square footage of 69,000 square feet achieved LEED Gold Certification officially and containing state of the art research laboratories and teaching facilities was officially dedicated opened on Friday 12 October 2012 . Building on Lehman’s tradition in the liberal arts and its history of excellence in the sciences, the new facility will promote collaboration between students and faculty, while serving as a gateway to the sciences by attracting students who might not otherwise consider pursuing a career in these fields. The architectural, landscape, and sustainable aspects of the project all support this goal.

The Strategic Plan for STEM is aligned with the strategic goals of *Achieving the Vision: Strategic Directions for Lehman Col­lege 2010-2020* and *Lehman’s Mission Statement*. This Strategic Plan ensures that the College leverages synergies between STEM departments, schools and administrative areas as we develop new academic programs and strengthen existing programs. It also seeks to ensure that the College recruits and retains faculty with active research interests and success in being awarded research grants.

Lehman College, with its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, will be recognized as a center of scientific excellence, for research that advances our understanding of our world, for science education that begins at the PreK-12 level and extends beyond the doctorate, for the use of technology to teach, inspire, and discover, and for expanding scientific literacy and engagement. This plan is intended to create an academic pipeline from PreK-12 through science education programs. It recognizes the importance of improving pre-college STEM education as well as the transfer, persistence and graduation of students from community colleges and other feeder institutions who want to major in STEM related areas. Our shared intentions are that these goals have a positive and lasting impact on the community.

Currently Lehman offers “STEM” degrees in Biological Sciences (B.A., M.A.); Chemistry (B.A.); Computer Science (B.A., M.S.); Geographic Information Science (B.A., M.S.); Mathematics (B.A., M.A.); and Physics (B.A., B.S.). It is also actively involved in K-12 outreach for Bronx students; The Bronx STEM Scholars Program, which brings Select students from Bronx Community College and Hostos Community College to Lehman for an intense summer research experience, and after completing their associates degrees on their home campuses many will transfer to Lehman to obtain the bachelors degree and continue their research with their Lehman mentors as designated STEM Scholars; The Women in Science program mentors promising female seniors from Bronx public high schools and at Lehman they receive one-on-one mentoring and research training as well as take college credit summer courses; The Bronx Scifest which in partnership with INTEL Corporation brings Bronx high school students to Lehman to engage in faculty mentored research projects for regional competition; and the Bronx Institute which holds Saturday and after school classes built around STEM content for secondary school students enrolled in the Institute’s ENLACE and GEAR UP programs.