



1. Magnet Schools Program Manager – Local County School System

**Key Quotes:**

- *We have to prepare our students with the 21st century job skills. It is a transformation that impacts both curriculum content and the life skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive job market.*

2. Superintendent - Local County Schools

**Key Quotes:**

- *STEM is an important part of our curriculum. As an example we have included robotics in our elementary school curriculum. It teaches them to work as a part of a team.*

3. Superintendent - Local County Schools

**Key Quotes:**

- *Our County is focused on putting our students on a fast track to obtain a 2 year Associate's Degree in 5 years. We are collaborating with our business partners on curriculum development with the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for highly skilled technical jobs.*

4. Superintendent - Local County School System

**Key Quotes:**

- *Our County has designated STEM Elementary, STEM Middle School and STEM Technology High School as STEM Magnet Schools. Our business leaders, K-12 Administration and School Board believe that a K-12 STEM Magnet School has the best chance of exciting and engaging students in STEM...particularly in the difficult middle school years where they lose interest in STEM.*

5. Principal – Magnet STEM Technology High School

**Key Quotes:**

- *There is a misconception that STEM is only for rich white kids. In fact 80% of the jobs of the future will require proficiency with STEM. All of our kids need to understand STEM.*
- *When I was Principal of the Magnet STEM Middle School, people were always surprised that a STEM focused, high performing middle school with 1,100 students almost perfectly matched the demographics of the county.*
- *One of the secrets being successful with K-12 STEM education is to start with students who want to learn. If you put those kids in an environment that is conducive to learning (consistent discipline), then amazing things can happen.*
- *We have to recognize that many of our students need to be on a fast track to the workforce and provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful. It is critically important to encourage the kids with*



*certificates or who are on a track for an Associate's Degree to continue their education.*

- *You must create an environment that is conducive to learning. Everyone in the building must be responsible for administering the rules in a consistent fashion. Introducing a standard mode of dress levels the playing field between the “haves” and “have nots”. When the distractions are eliminated, learning happens*

6. Curriculum Coordinator – Magnet STEM Technology High School

**Key Quotes:**

- *Science and math in a traditional classroom setting can be both difficult and boring. The same subject matter taught in the context of solving real life problems breathes life into the subject and provides a hook to hang the knowledge on.*
- *Problem based learning works. I am way more effective as teacher during the afterschool clubs like First Lego League and rocketry club than I am lecturing in a class room. The interactions among the students, their approaches to problem solving and learning how to apply what they have learned occurs in these afterschool teams*
- *We will know we have succeeded when the top universities are recruiting deep in our graduating classes.*

7. Curriculum Coordinator – STEM Magnet Schools

**Key Quotes:**

- *We knew that we needed to expose students to real-world applications of STEM concepts. It was difficult to learn about all of the companies that use STEM and learn what they are doing.*
- *It is wonderful to have someone like Samantha McGill, Ph.D. teach our Project Lead The Way pre-engineering students the basics of aeronautical engineering using a paper airplane.*

8. Principal – Local Academy

**Key Quotes:**

- *Participating for the first time with his academy's First Robotics Competition team at the state tournament last year in Raleigh and watching the kids participate convinced him that we can compete with China or any other country in the world if we give our kids a great STEM education.*