



**For Immediate Release**

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**STEM Premier**

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## **NexTier Bank Sponsors STEM Premier Program in Armstrong School District**

**Butler, PA May 18, 2016** NexTier Bank and STEM Premier announced a partnership to launch the STEM Premier platform to Armstrong High School students who are engaged in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This partnership will allow students the opportunity to receive guidance, further their academic career, and eventually enter the workforce successfully. More importantly, they will have the platform to brand themselves to those looking to cultivate their unique skills and achievements.

STEM Premier is an online platform solution that assists students with designing a career pathway, assists educators with recruiting top talent to their schools, and assists employers with developing a stable, continuous talent pipeline. STEM Premier is the first online platform for STEM that allows students to showcase their STEM skills and close the talent gap that exists in the STEM fields.

"One of the greatest joys for educators lies in finding and nurturing specific talents and skills in students," said Don Tylinski, PhD, President of STEM Premier and a former award-winning school superintendent. "NexTier Bank's sponsorship puts STEM Premier in schools and addresses the opportunity gap that exists for students in largely underserved areas, while providing all STEM students vastly increased resources to unlock their potential."

Students demonstrating interest in STEM education bring with them new ideas, perspectives and a passion for innovation; but barriers remain for these students to connect with in demand careers in high-growth industry sectors. Underserved students don't have the same access to connections, scholarships, internships, and resources that lead them directly to a career in STEM fields and allow them to thrive in the global economy. NexTier's sponsorship at Armstrong School District allows access to STEM Premier for students and levels the playing field.

"NexTier's generosity gives our students an advantage to showcase their skills", said Michael Cominos, Armstrong School District. "In addition, it is an opportunity for our students to see where they are lacking skill-wise and improve for the future. The Redkite scholarship matching application that is embedded in the program gives our students an excellent resource to assist in finding resources to help pay for any post-secondary training they desire. We feel this is an opportunity to show businesses the type of workforce we can develop for them to potentially consider our county/region as a place to grow."

NexTier's sponsorship also provides a \$500 scholarship for a top STEM student at Armstrong School District.

"This partnership will allow us to effectively connect talent to college and business in a way we can measure and show great success", said Maria Smathers, Chief Marketing Officer at NexTier Bank. "Together, we are striving to connect students to careers in STEM-related fields and provide a better network for companies to find talent. In working together, we will be able to directly impact and strengthen our overall economic health."

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**About NexTier Bank**

NexTier, Inc. serves the western Pennsylvania region with corporate offices in Kittanning. NexTier, Inc. includes NexTier Bank, NexTier Wealth Management, and ESS NexTier Insurance. NexTier Bank has 26 community offices throughout Allegheny, Butler and Armstrong counties. As of February 29, 2016, NexTier Bank reported total assets of \$1.15 billion, total loans of \$863 million and total deposits of \$939 million. [www.nexttierbank.com](http://www.nexttierbank.com)

**About STEM Premier**

STEM Premier is the first online solution that assists students in designing a career pathway, educators in recruiting top talent to their schools, and employers in developing a stable, continuous talent pipeline. Through a digital portfolio, students (age 13+) showcase their skills and abilities, receive personalized career guidance, match with over \$20 billion in scholarships, and get directly connected with post-secondary institutions and companies looking for the next generation of talent. For more information, visit [www.stempremier.com](http://www.stempremier.com)