**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SPRING 2020**

**PLTW-KC Research & Design Competitions 2020**

**Description:** KC STEM Alliance uses the [Innovation Portal](https://www.innovationportal.org/) for online competitions recognizing excellence in engineering design or biomedical research and design. Volunteers use the rubric embedded in the Innovation Portal to judge projects online. Projects that meet specific criteria may also be recommended for consideration to other competitions, including the BioGENEius Innovation Challenge.

**Date:** April 4-April 17 (judging window)

**Volunteer Role:** Judge three to four projects online (takes three to four hours, any time during the judging window).

**Types of Volunteers Needed:** Engineering, computer science and technology professionals for the engineering competition and healthcare professionals, scientists, researchers or STEM faculty for the biomedical competition.

**PLTW High School Senior Showcase**

**Description:**The Senior Showcase celebrates PLTW students by highlighting their senior capstone projects and sharing them with the community. During the event, judges identify Innovator Award winners and recognize research and design contest winners from the online competitions. The event is attended by 300+ engineering students and teachers and 100+ biomed students and teachers with a total attendance of about 1,000 as guests, family and school attendees join in.

**Date:**  April 21, 2020

**Location:**Hy-Vee Arena, Kansas City

**Volunteer Roles:**Judges for the Innovator Awards and Project Reviewers

**Innovator Award judging** occurs during the showcase and recognizes innovativeness and marketability of project ideas. Teachers will screen projects and recommend top teams for judging. Business development professionals and entrepreneurs make a great fit for this assignment.

**Time:** 8:30–11 a.m. (2.5 hours).

**Project Reviewers** conduct five short (5 minute) interviews of student teams not participating in the Innovator Award judging during the showcase open house.

**Time:** 30 minutes between 9 and 11 a.m.

**Register to Volunteer at** [**www.kcstem.org**](http://www.kcstem.org)**. (STEM Community > Mentors & Volunteers)**