

## SmartLabs: Fostering Diversity in STEM Education

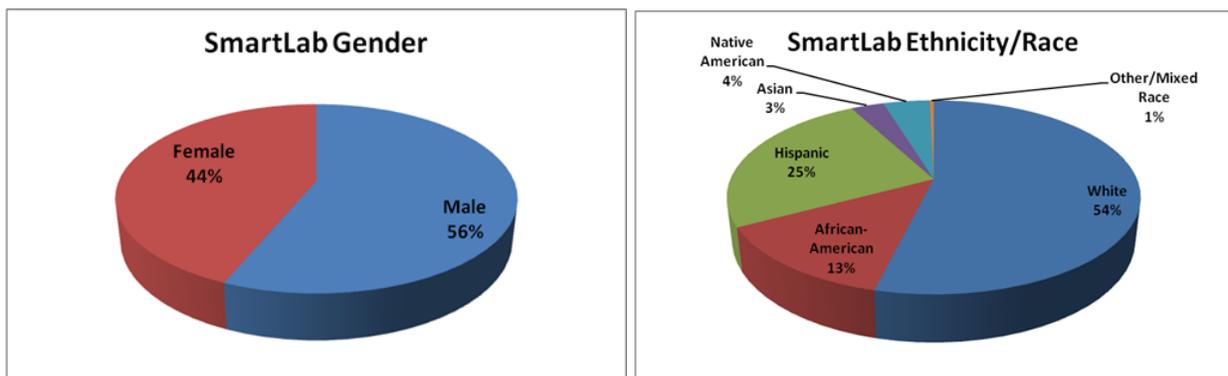
*“We must prepare all students, including girls and minorities who are underrepresented in [STEM] fields to be proficient in STEM subjects. And we must inspire all students to learn STEM and, in the process, motivate many of them to pursue STEM careers”* Presidents Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, September, 2010

The need to engage all students in STEM education is a critical challenge facing schools. It is imperative for success in a global economy—for each learner and for our nation as a whole.

For over twenty years, SmartLab 21st century learning labs have met this challenge. With its engaging resources and curriculum, students of all abilities explore science, math and engineering - as well as social studies, language arts and fine arts - through projects rich in applied technology. And SmartLabs also develop skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and project and time management - all critical skills for college and career readiness.

SmartLabs meet each student where they are and take them as far as they are able to go. The student-centered approach in a SmartLab challenges and empowers learners to explore topics of personal interest. Projects are open-ended projects and appropriate to the ability of each learner.

As a result, SmartLabs succeed in engaging learners of all abilities and interests in STEM - including girls and underrepresented minorities. Based on a recent survey of SmartLab schools, SmartLabs have had unparalleled success in reflecting the diversity of the schools they serve. The proportion of girls in SmartLab programs is approximately three times higher than Project Lead the Way. The proportion of African-American enrollments are 62% higher, Hispanic enrollments are 250% higher and Native-American enrollments are 400% higher.



Learn more about how SmartLabs are preparing students of all abilities to compete in a global economy at [www.creativelearningsystems.com](http://www.creativelearningsystems.com). Or call (800)458-2880 to arrange for a visit to a SmartLab in your area.