

Apollo Education Group’s University of Phoenix—Championing Spark 101 and STEM Teachers Nationwide

The University of Phoenix has long been a champion in helping prepare our nation’s teachers for classroom success. Additionally, they’ve also been focused on helping grow a strong STEM workforce. With both a focus on supporting teachers and preparing future STEM professionals, the University was a perfect early partner for Spark 101.

[Spark 101](#) supports STEM teachers with free, real-world, standards-aligned case study videos to engage students in problem-based learning—with authentic problems from business, government, nonprofits, and academia. Through the use of interactive “case study” videos, Spark 101 not only makes potentially difficult academic content more understandable for students in middle school and high school STEM classrooms—it helps them envision potential careers. And it’s proving to be especially impactful for underrepresented students.

The University of Phoenix has created two case study videos currently being used in classrooms nationwide.

- **[How Teachers Motivate their Students to Succeed:](#)** Through this case study, students join Kansas State Teacher of the Year Dyane Smokorowski as she and her colleagues formulate a lesson plan designed to engage and inspire students. Students explore the psychology teachers use as they prepare for class and utilize the science of teaching and learning to increase their students’ motivation.
- **[The 411 on Math:](#)** This case study asks students to explore the financial implications of unprepared students attempting to complete their college degrees—including withdrawing from college-level math courses. STEM classes explore this hypothetical situation involving remedial math courses required to complete a degree and the associated costs per credit hour, and asks students to shape potential solutions to address the challenge.

Recently, the University of Phoenix generously underwrote a [new tutorial video](#) to educate more teachers about Spark 101’s free, evidence-based resources.

“The University of Phoenix has been a great partner to Spark 101,” said the program’s founder, Jane Kubasik. “From creating dynamic content for our nation’s teachers and helping make more teachers aware of our free resources—they have always been willing to share their education expertise.”

In consultation with STEM industry organizations (like STEMconnector), the [University of Phoenix](#) is focused on identifying key STEM skills gaps and developing a portfolio of degree and certificate programs, professional development courses, career services and academic support to help enhance students’ workforce performance and meet employers’ STEM talent needs.

[Spark 101](#) is a program of the non-profit 114th Partnership, which builds collaborations that increase student engagement and achievement. Inspired by the meridian that bridges the Great Continental Divide, the 114th Partnership bridges the gap between industry and education to support shared goals for student success.