



REACH FOR THE STARS: THE EXPERIMENT BEGINS



Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026

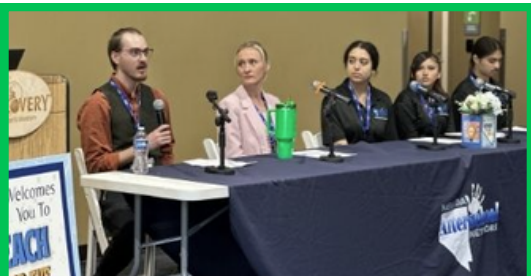
On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the Nevada Flight Crew, an initiative of the Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN), hosted Reach for the Stars: The Experiment Begins at the DISCOVERY Children's Museum. The event celebrated the accomplishments of the 2026 Nevada Flight Crew cohort while highlighting the impact of afterschool and summer STEM programs in developing youth leadership, career exploration, and community engagement.

A total of **55 attendees** representing **11 organizations** joined the event, including families, educators, community partners, STEM professionals, and representatives from the offices of Senator Jacky Rosen, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Congressman Steven Horsford, Commissioner William McCurdy III, and Assemblywoman Erica Mosca. Guests networked, enjoyed a light brunch, explored interactive STEM stations, and heard directly from Flight Crew members about the impact of out-of-school-time (OST) learning on their STEM journeys.



Throughout the event, **10 Nevada Flight Crew members** demonstrated the leadership and communication skills they developed during the program by facilitating two hands-on STEM stations, delivering personal STEM Spotlights and leading discussions with STEM professionals. The youth-guided activities allowed attendees to participate in chemistry-based experiments while learning alongside Flight Crew members.

The program featured **two youth-led STEM panels** with **five STEM professionals** representing engineering, environmental science, healthcare, industrial technology, and aerospace/defense. Panel discussions explored career pathways, mentorship, innovation, and the importance of afterschool and summer learning opportunities in preparing students for STEM careers. Flight Crew members connected their own experiences to these conversations, highlighting how hands-on learning, mentorship, and leadership opportunities shaped their educational goals.



The event concluded with a call to continue supporting OST STEM opportunities and recognizing the accomplishments of the 2026 Nevada Flight Crew. Each member received certificates of recognition from the offices of Senator Jacky Rosen, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Congressman Steven Horsford, and Commissioner William McCurdy III, with additional congratulatory video messages from Senator Cortez Masto and Commissioner McCurdy III.

This annual event continues to showcase how the Nevada Flight Crew empowers youth to strengthen their leadership, public speaking, and STEM advocacy skills while inspiring peers and connecting students with professionals across Nevada. As the program continues into the 2026–2027 school year, NAN will welcome a new cohort of Nevada Flight Crew members while continuing to cultivate youth leadership and expand opportunities for STEM engagement throughout the state.

