

# NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2023

## **STEM Innovation Academy High School announces permanent location for 1000 students in Alberta's first Charter School Hub**

STEM Innovation Academy (STEM IA) high school, a trailblazing public charter school in Calgary, is excited to share its new permanent location for September 2023 within Alberta's first Charter School Hub. The new Calgary Charter School Hub will be in the former SMART Technologies building ([LEED certified](#)) located at 3636 Research Road, NW, Calgary, Alberta. This location is within Calgary's University Innovation Quarter, an innovation and research cluster incubating new ideas, technologies, talent, and academic learnings for Calgary's innovation community.

The new Charter School Hub will be home to several charter schools and allow these schools to operate under one roof sharing common infrastructure such as gymnasiums, labs, and lunch areas. Students attending the Hub could also take classes offered by one of the other co-located schools.

"We are thrilled to be included as part of this leading-edge Hub model and look forward to welcoming our students in this new location in September of 2023," said STEM IA co-founder Lisa Davis. "Being part of this critical infrastructure project is going to benefit numerous students in the years to come and provide them with a modern education facility within a vibrant community of innovators."

STEM IA will benefit from the Government of Alberta's nearly \$2 billion dollar investment in Education over the next three years. Setting itself apart from other high schools, STEM IA has collaborated with post-secondary institutions and industry to develop complementary courses that mirror what students would find in real-world STEM workplaces.

Board Chair Carolyn Chin notes, "STEM IA fills a vital missing link in the local tech ecosystem. While Calgary's technology sector has enjoyed unprecedented investment, there are skilled labor shortages and skills gaps that our school will help address".

Superintendent Joanne Higgins shares, "Our curriculum is frequently updated to ensure that coursework keeps pace with quickly changing technologies and scientific advances. Incorporating this level of collaboration with industry and academics into the fabric of the school's design will translate into a high school experience that truly delivers on the promise of preparing students for post-secondary studies and careers in STEM".

STEM IA is also home to Alberta's first MIT Fab Lab. The fabrication lab facilitates hands-on experience with cutting-edge fabrication equipment and access to a network of learners, educators, technology experts and makers at 2,000 labs in over 120 countries. Focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), the school emphasizes hands-on, career-connected learning, empowering 1000 students each year to solve real-world problems using leading-edge STEM tools and technologies.