



## Plenary Abstract

### **“The Promise of Successful STEM Practices and America’s Forgotten Children”**

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Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are reflected in countless aspects of American life and are critical for escaping poverty, yet the STEM education provided poor urban and rural children is often inadequate due to STEM teacher transiency and shortages, inadequate resources, and limited instructional time. In rural America children and youth development opportunities are even more limited and there are few after-school, recreational, and informal STEM education centers. Given what we know about successful STEM practices, how do we meet this goal for students in rural America? These Forgotten Children of America live in the shadows of some of the richest agricultural land in the world, isolated in remote areas of Appalachia, American Indian reservations, and small rural cities of the Central San Joaquin Valley in California. Let’s begin the conversation and develop a will for improving the opportunity for all children. What works and how can we further disseminate these practices to all children?