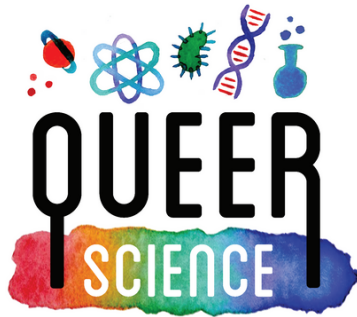




What is Queer Science?

Queer Science (QS) is a one-day conference for LGBTQIA+ high school students in Connecticut to connect with LGBTQIA+ researchers at UConn. Our goal is to give queer and trans youth role models in various science, technology, engineering, & mathematics (STEM) fields. Inspired by events of the same name at the University of Minnesota, participants will connect with LGBTQIA+ students and faculty across STEM fields at UConn and experience hands-on science demos.



Due to systemic homophobia and transphobia, many queer/trans/GNC youth do not have the resources they need to attend STEM programs. Furthermore, there is little representation for queer/trans/GNC people in STEM fields. Merely by being open about who we are in male-dominated fields which reflect cisheteropatriarchal society, we are performing a radical act. By bringing together a diverse array of identities and perspectives, we can do better science and create lasting change for society.

This event is a joint effort between the Vergnano Institute or Inclusion, the UConn Rainbow Center, the UConn oSTEM chapter, and volunteers across all fields of STEM on campus!

Who We Are

About VII

The Vergnano Institute for Inclusion is dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented students in engineering and other STEM fields and runs a number of programs in an effort to work towards this goal. The Vergnano Institute for Inclusion programs are designed to facilitate the outreach, recruitment, retention, and overall success of all members of the School of Engineering community.

Learn more at:
inclusion.engr.uconn.edu

Follow VII!



About the Rainbow Center

The UConn Rainbow Center's mission is to operate in the service of a more equitable world for all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Connecticut. Using an intersectional lens, we center our work on advocating for, and increasing education, access, retention, identity development, and community-building for queer- and trans-spectrum communities.

Learn more at:
rainbowcenter.uconn.edu

Follow the Rainbow Center!



Who We Are

About oSTEM

Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (oSTEM), Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit professional association for LGBTQ+ people in the STEM community. With over 100 student chapters at colleges/universities and professional chapters in cities across the United States and abroad, oSTEM is the largest chapter-based organization focused on LGBTQ+ people in STEM.

oSTEM Values...

- *Integrity*: We establish trust through honesty and transparency by maintaining the highest standard of ethics.
- *Intentionality*: We carry out our work with mindfulness, focus, and self-awareness.
- *Respect*: We create and maintain openness and inclusion, appreciating individual contributions and fostering diversity and equity.
- *Passion*: We are dedicated to the relentless pursuit of our vision.
- *Grit*: We push forward with courage and determination, regardless of the circumstances, to achieve our mission.

Learn more about the UConn chapter of oSTEM:

uconncontact.uconn.edu/organization/ostem

Follow UConn oSTEM!



@uconnostem



Preparing for Queer Science

Before You Arrive

In the days leading up to the event, please check your email consistently for any event updates. We also have a “rainbow-free” version of this information packet for you to give to your parent/guardian in case you are not out to them.

If you are comfortable with having your photo taken at the event, please have your parent/guardian complete the Photo Consent Form, available on the Queer Science website. inclusion.engr.uconn.edu/queer-science/

You are already fully registered and accounted for! If you are not planning to come to the event, please email engr-queerscience@uconn.edu or anna.marie@uconn.edu to let us know!

On The Day of The Event

The attire for the conference is casual, however we will be performing (very fun) science experiments in the afternoon. Please wear closed-toed shoes, long pants, and bring a method to tie back long hair or loose clothing. A backpack will help to carry event materials. If you own your own lab coat, bring that along as well! All necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for the activities will be provided.

Preparing for Queer Science

On The Day of The Event (Contd.)

You can be dropped off at Fairfield Way across from Gampel Pavilion (the huge dome on Hillside Road); volunteers will be able to direct you to McHugh Hall for the event check-in! Alternatively, parking is available at South Parking Garage (we will validate parking for those who need it; just bring your garage ticket with you to the event!) Signage will be placed to help you navigate to McHugh Hall.

While you're waiting for the event to begin, please check into our event by taking our entrance survey! (Don't worry, we won't give your data to anybody else!) You'll also be able to pick up a conference lanyard, name tag, and folder.

After the event is over, please take our exit survey! Links to both attendee surveys will be provided at the actual event.



Vergnano Institute for Inclusion

Check out our website!



Event Schedule

Time	Team Marsha	Team Sylvia	Team Major
08:30-9:00 AM	Participants arrive on campus		
09:00-10:00 AM	Breakfast, Check-In Survey (MCHU 102)		
10:00-10:30 AM	Rainbow Center	Greenhouse	MARS Laboratory
10:45-11:15 AM	Greenhouse	MARS Laboratory	Rainbow Center
11:30-12:00 PM	MARS Laboratory	Rainbow Center	Greenhouse
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch (MCHU 102)		
1:00-2:00 PM	NRE	PSYCH	BME
2:00-3:00 PM	BME	NRE	PSYCH
3:00-4:00 PM	PSYCH	BME	NRE
4:00 PM	Sendoff, Check-Out Survey (MCHU 102)		

Morning Session: Campus Tours

- Rainbow Center: LGBTQIA+ Cultural Center Tour, Student Union 4th floor
- MARS: Microbial Analysis, Resources, & Services Lab w/ Dr. Kendra Maas (ESB 309B)
- UConn Greenhouse: Plant Identification & Bug-Catching Activity

Afternoon Session: Presentations & Science Demonstrations

- NRE: Natural Resources and the Environment (EII 217)
- BME: Biomedical Engineering (UTEB 180)
- PSYCH: Psychology (EII 321)

Entire Event

- All-gender restrooms will be available in all event spaces.
- MCHU 110 is a designated volunteer break area.
- MCHU 111 and EII 320 are designated Quiet Rooms for event attendees.
- The entire event will take place on UConn's Storrs campus. Participants will NOT be driven off campus for any reason.
- In the case of an emergency, participants will be taken to the Urgent Care in Storrs Center and the participants' Emergency Contact will be notified immediately.

Event Map



The main event hub will be in McHugh Hall, Room 102.

Attendees can be dropped off at Fairfield Way across from Gampel Pavilion. Alternatively, parking is available at South Garage on campus (we will validate parking for those who need it; just bring your parking ticket with you when you leave the garage). Volunteers will be able to direct you towards McHugh Hall for the main event. We strongly encourage carpooling together with friends!



Catering Information

Our event will provide breakfast and lunch free of charge. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options will be provided at both meals.

Breakfast will be provided by UConn Catering. Nutritional information can be found at: dining.uconn.edu/nutrition/

Lunch will be provided by Jamaican Kitchen, a Black-owned business in Vernon, CT. More information can be found at: jamaicankitchenct.com



Covid-19 & Emergencies

COVID-19 Policies & Resources

The University of Connecticut is currently at a COVID-19 Alert Level of Yellow, meaning that it is not requiring masks for indoor events, nor is it requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for event attendees.

These policies can change at any given time. It is expected that you follow suit when new guidelines are released. Program staff will let you know.

We at the Vergnano Institute for Inclusion strongly recommend that attendees wear masks during the event out of courtesy for folks who may be (or who live in close contact with those who are) immunocompromised, disabled, or elderly.

More information can be found at the UConn COVID Dashboard:

<https://covidashboard.uconn.edu/>

Health Emergencies

In the case of an emergency, a participant will be taken to the Urgent Care in Storrs Center and the participants' Emergency Contact will be notified immediately.

Every event volunteer has completed a University background check as well as the University's Minor Protection Training. To learn more about our policies respecting minors, please visit: **hr.uconn.edu/minor-protection/**



Vernano Institute for Inclusion

We Can't Wait to See You!

Thank you for attending the 2022 Queer Science Conference!

We believe in all that you are and all that you will do. You are the next generation of scientists, and we are thrilled to be a part of that journey!

The remainder of this info packet consists of resources for you about the Vergnano Institute for Inclusion's its other K-12 programs. Maybe we'll see you there!

One More Thing

When you arrive on campus, we'll be giving you a check-in survey about your high school experience and what sort of mentorship you receive. You can save time by filling it out in advance!

Scan the QR code or [click here to take the survey](#).



Vergnano Institute for Inclusion

The Vergnano Institute for Inclusion is in place to attract and matriculate a diverse group of engineering students that will successfully progress within industry and post-undergraduate education. While our students navigate their undergraduate experience, the Vergnano Institute for Inclusion provides the support and skills needed to successfully become a professional engineer, as well as a confident and forward-thinking member of society.

Vergnano Institute Impact During College



50-60 students enter the pre-freshman year BRIDGE Program to better prepare them for their first year of engineering school.



Supplemental seminars providing confidence building, communication skills and workplace team skills.



Internship opportunities from participating companies to provide engagement and experience.



peer and alumni mentoring throughout their 4 years.



Training and experiences that develop forward-thinking, inclusive leaders.

Vergnano Institute Impact Post-Graduation

25%

Female UConn Engineering Graduates represent 25% of graduating engineers.

50

Alumni continue to volunteer as speakers, mentors, or donors annually.

40%

UConn engineering graduates identify as racially minoritized vs. 17% of engineers in industry.

69%

of Bridge students graduate engineering in 6 years vs 50% nationally.



Vernano Institute for Inclusion

UPCOMING K-12 EVENTS

For more information and program dates, Visit us at
<https://inclusion.engr.uconn.edu>



s.uconn.edu/myo

Multiply Your Options (MYO)

October 28, 2022 & March 31, 2023

8th grade female identifying
students*

Engineering Your Future (EYF)

April 14, 2023

8th grade male identifying
students*



s.uconn.edu/eyf2021



s.uconn.edu/ee2021

Explore Engineering (EE)

June 26th - June 30th, 2022

10th and 11th grade students

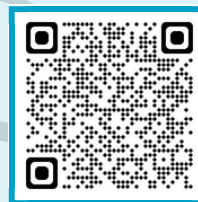
SPARK Program

July 10th - July 30th, 2022

6th - 9th grade female
identifying students*



s.uconn.edu/spark2021



s.uconn.edu/sis2021

Sisters in STEM (SIS)

November 4, 2022

10th grade female identifying
students*

Queer Science

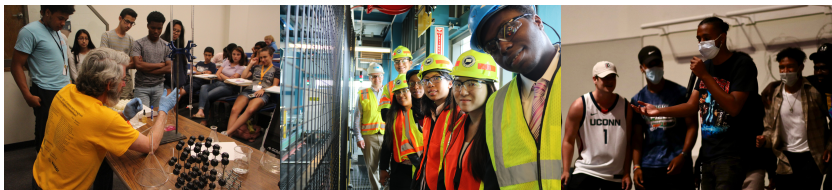
June 11, 2022

High School students who identify as
LGBTQIA+



s.uconn.edu/qs2022

*Includes transgender students, non-binary students, and all students who identify with or wish to be a part of the target audience



WHAT IS BRIDGE

BRIDGE is a five week summer program for under-represented first year engineering students, such as Women, African Americans, Hispanic/Latinx Americans, Native Americans, etc.

Industry Visits

Google, Pratt & Whitney, Unilever, Cigna, Sikorsky, Ensign Bickford, Stanley Black & Decker, Medtronic, Electric Boat, Collins Aerospace, The Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Cigna, and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Activities

Dodgeball Tournament, Games and Crafts, Talent Show, Capstone Project

Weekend Activities

Rhode Island beaches, Four Arrows, Community Service Events, Team building activities such as Physics Olympics and Science Bowl Competition, and learn about engineering organizations such as EA, NSBE, SWE, SHPE, and EWB.

Core Classes

Chemistry, Calculus, Physics, Python, and Leadership training

PROGRAM COST

The School of Engineering and Donors generously fund for part of each student, so the remaining cost per participant is \$1,995, which is \$400 per week. This price covers housing, dining hall meals, transportation, and other activity expenses.

Fellowships

48 Full and Partial Fellowships are awarded to students based on financial need.

Scholarships

Over \$82,000 in scholarships are awarded to BRIDGE students.

AFTER BRIDGE

Mentor-Mentee

Mentorship from former BRIDGE upperclassmen. Includes monthly activities that help improve study skills, time management, and other efficiencies.

Graduation Rates

SOE: 55 - 57% of all students
BRIDGE Alums SOE: 69% since 2002



UConn CULTURAL CENTERS

Located on the 4th floor of the Student Union

African American Cultural Center

The AACC is provides programs, activities, and resources to give students an appreciation and understanding of the heritage and cultural experiences of African Americans and people of African descent in the United States and throughout the world.

Asian American Cultural Center

AsACC provides resources and programming to enhance the University's diversity commitment through its recruitment and retention efforts, teaching, service, and outreach to the Asian American community on campus and beyond.

Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center

PRLACC works to sponsor educational and cultural programs, provide services and leadership opportunities, foster connections, and educate the greater University community about Latinx issues.

Rainbow Center

The Rainbow Center serves the University's diverse community of gender identities, expressions, and romantic and sexual orientations by providing resources, services, education, training and advocacy.

Women's Center

The Women's Center provides education, advocacy, and support services for the achievement of women's equity at the University and larger community.

Native American Cultural Center

NACP strives to increase awareness of Native American culture and issues at UConn.