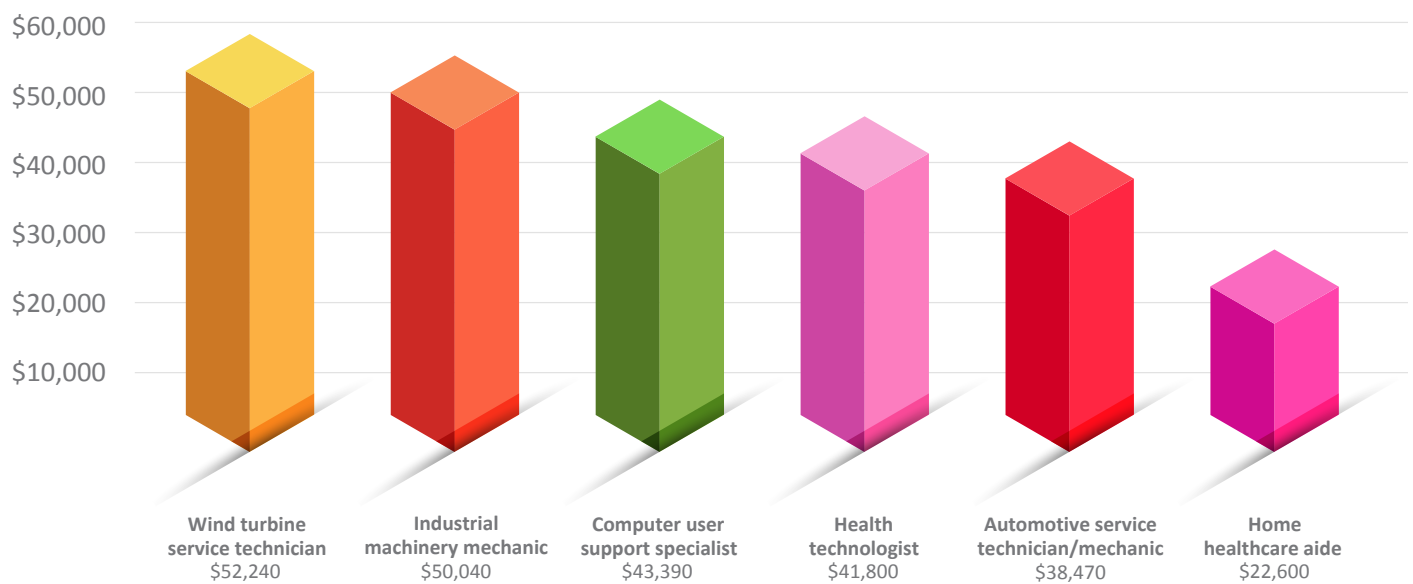


The STEM advantage

The annual median earnings of STEM jobs is 29 percent higher than non-STEM related occupations.

2016 median annual wage of non-baccalaureate STEM occupations



Source: *Education Week*, STEM Education Opening Gateways to Learning & Careers, "Is STEM oversold as a path to better jobs?" and "Which STEM jobs are in demand and pay well?," May 2018. Data retrieved on May 22, 2018.



Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs are projected to grow, on average, between 9 percent and 11 percent from 2014 to 2024, compared to a 6.5 percent growth for non-STEM jobs. In general, STEM occupations that require either baccalaureate or sub-baccalaureate credentials tend to pay, on average, 29 percent more than other disciplines, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Some non-baccalaureate STEM occupations (*see graph above*) require a postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. These jobs typically yield higher median annual earnings. For example, individuals with a postsecondary certificate working in health technologies earned an annual median salary of \$41,800 in 2016, while industrial machinery mechanics earned \$50,040. The education and workforce supply pipeline for STEM is slow and lags behind demand — even though many occupations such as healthcare pay good wages. According to Georgetown University research, early achievement gaps in science and math particularly affect students who don't earn a high school diploma or matriculate into a STEM discipline. Additionally, students of color have even lower STEM educational outcomes than their white student counterparts. Community colleges are contributing to a STEM pipeline and overall higher education STEM outcomes.

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