



2026 Bold Path Fellow - Research Triangle Region



Rich Gilliam

EDUCATION:



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Master of Arts, Educational Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship
Degree Candidate



Saint Augustine's University

Bachelor of Science, Biology, General
2011-2015

Rich Gilliam is the Founder and CEO of STEM PLUG, a company that creates story-based robotics kits for K–12 students. His experience bridges engineering and education, with a focus on making STEM hands-on, relatable, and connected to real-world skills. STEM PLUG is building solutions that connect early STEM exposure to long-term workforce development.



STEM PLUG is a K–12 robotics education platform that combines buildable robotics kits with storytelling-based learning to make STEM more relatable and engaging for students. The program helps young learners build technical skills while connecting robotics concepts to real-world challenges through narrative-based curriculum. STEM PLUG serves schools, youth organizations, and families seeking accessible, hands-on STEM experiences.

“Receiving the Bold Path Fellowship means both validation and momentum. This support is helping turn what started as an idea into a sustainable company with real impact. It also pushes me to build something that not only grows, but creates long-term opportunities for the next generation. I’m in deep gratitude to be a Bold Path Fellow.”

