

CEO Introduction

Alastair MacGregor, CEO, SSERC



SSERC has always been, and will continue to be, an organisation that has strived to support the school technician profession in Scotland and has not been afraid, when necessary, to call out the injustices that have been placed upon the profession in recent years (as referenced in issue 1 of The School STEM Technician¹).

Our support has been multi-faceted but includes:

- The establishment of the Scottish Technicians' Advisory Council (STAC) with representation across all Scottish Local Authorities which provides direction relating to the professional development requirements of school technicians²
- The establishment of Techné, a virtual professional network for Scottish school technicians³
- The establishment of SSERC Accredited Centres, allowing for localised school technician professional development opportunities
- The establishment of The School STEM Technician digital publication⁴
- The development of a range of SCQF credit and levelled professional courses to support school technician professional development
- The development of a range of non SCQF professional learning courses to support school technician professional development
- Securing funding to establish a series of twilight Tech Meet information sessions⁵.

If we want to continue to raise the profile of the school technician profession in Scotland, emphasising the critical role that they play in relation to supporting safe, practical STEM activities in the classroom, then we cannot do this alone; we need every school technician to be aware of the support that SSERC and STAC provide and start to engage with the professional networking opportunities that have been made available to encourage professional discussion and dialogue. It is surely, not up to a small minority of the profession to do this on behalf of the (sometimes) silent majority. Today I offer a number of challenges to the school technician community in Scotland:



Challenge 1: STAC

Do you know who your local authority STAC representative is, and do you know how you would be able to contact them? If the answer is no, then read the article in this issue, which can be found on page 3-4

Challenge 2: Techné

Are you aware of Techné? Have you signed up for Techné? Have you posted any items on Techné? If the answer to any of these questions is no – then take action now by [signing up to Techné here](#).

Challenge 3: The School STEM Technician (1)

Copy the following link to The School STEM Technician to another technician colleague: [The School STEM Technician - SSERC](#)

Challenge 4: The School STEM Technician (2)

Consider writing an article for The School STEM Technician. Suggestions include:

- A day in my life as a school technician.
- Sharing details of a resource that you have used and found to be useful.
- An overview of professional learning activities you have been involved in and how it has benefited you, your colleagues, and your centre.

Challenge 5: SSERC TV

Subscribe to SSERC TV and browse the various available playlists, including those specifically developed for school technicians. [SSERC TV - YouTube](#)

If you have any suggestions for technician-related SSERC TV content, let us know.

SSERC will continue to act as an ambassador for the school technician community in Scotland, but in order to do that we need to know that we have the support of the majority of the profession. We need to hear from the profession not only what the current issues and concerns are but also the many examples of good practice and success stories that are

undoubtedly taking place. I was disheartened that there were no Scottish nominations for the award category: Excellence in STEM Support: Technicians and Support Staff, at the recent SSERC/STEM Learning STEM Awards event in Glasgow, resulting in the category not being awarded. We need to celebrate success and break the mould of Scottish Miserabilism⁶ – but we cannot do it alone.

[1] [STEM-Tech-01-intro.pdf \(netdna-ssl.com\)](#)

[2] [STEM-Tech-01-STAC.pdf \(netdna-ssl.com\)](#)

[3] [STEM-Tech-01-Techne.pdf \(netdna-ssl.com\)](#)

[4] [School STEM Technician-1 - SSERC](#)

[5] [Tech_meets - YouTube](#)

[6] [Scottish Miserabilism \(thepatterpod.com\)](#)

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