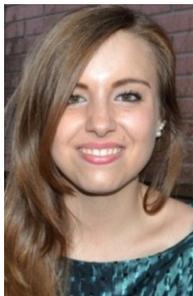


Editor's Note: What It Takes to Win

By Megan Schmidt, editor



As the Super Bowl and the Olympics came and gone, I thought about America's love—or dare I say obsession—of sports compared to a STEM perspective.

Undoubtedly, sports are an important part of growing up for some children. Sports teach children skills like teamwork, patience and how to handle winning and losing.

And we've all heard that personal participation in a sport may benefit students' academics. Playing and watching sports also are a lot of fun for children and parents. According to the [Statistic Brain Research Institute](#), 66% of boys and 52% of girls participate in organized sports. Professional athletes are the [most admired role models](#) for 73% of kids. Although I wasn't able to find many statistics on the number of K-12 students involved in math or science-related extracurricular activities, my guess is that the numbers would be pretty low by comparison.

What if Americans put engineers and scientists on pedestals next to sports figures? What if parents enrolled their 6-year-olds in junior science fairs instead of T-ball? While the STEM shortage is

complex, the problem would probably look much different if the same coaches that pace at games, the same parents who yell and jump out of their seats, and the same kids who push their physical and emotional limits on the field put that level of energy and spirit toward STEM education.

I'm not saying that sports are without merit or that our culture is flawed, but I do think STEM needs all the cheerleaders it can rally. In this year's STEM issue of the *ASQ Education Brief*, we'll hear from remarkable STEM advocates who've dedicated their life's work to advancing STEM, ensuring that America's STEM torch is passed on to the next generation. You'll learn about successful programs and practices designed to broaden interest and raise achievement in STEM subjects and fields.

While the United States has a long game ahead, I think we're starting to understand what it takes to win when it comes to STEM.

Save the Date: National Quality Education Conference

Be sure to mark your calendar for ASQ's 23rd annual National Quality Education Conference, taking place Nov. 16-17 in Milwaukee. It's a unique opportunity to exchange ideas on continuous improvement and innovation.

Administrators and educators interested in sharing their best practices and ideas on stage can [submit presentation proposals until March 7](#). Schools can see how they measure up against other educational institutions around the world in the Education Team Excellence Recognition Process by [entering an intent to submit form by March 15](#). ASQ is also offering a variety of [exhibitor and sponsor packages](#) for this premiere education quality event.