One of this nation’s greatest economic and intellectual threats is that although Americans are highly supportive of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), their knowledge and understanding is limited. Anti-science sentiment permeates not only public discussion but influences science education nationwide.

STEM Learning Centers have been mobilized to create a national community of researchers and practitioners to improve and enhance STEM teaching and learning. In recognition of national challenges and local events, the University of Kansas Center for STEM Learning (CSTEM) was established in the Fall 2000.

The Center for Science Education has successfully developed a variety of grant-funded programs and research initiatives to fulfill its mission. In 2007, with funding from the Kauffman Foundation, the National Mathematics and Science Initiative (NMSI) and the University of Kansas, the UKanTeach STEM teacher development program was launched. Built on the prior work and the successful practices of the UTeach program (UT Austin) combined with innovations established by UKanTeach, the program has created a unique model that meets the learning and teaching needs of our undergraduate STEM students.

Dr. Case is the Director of the Center for STEM Learning in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences where he serves as a special advisor to the Vice Chancellor on STEM, K-12 outreach and a Research Associate Professor. Before returning to his Alma Mata at the University of Kansas, Dr. Case was an award winning secondary science teacher for 20 years. His teaching career included the creation of the curriculum model that drives an international collaborative research network, guiding science teachers to the integration of cutting-edge technology into the K-12 student, scientific inquiry.

Since returning to the University of Kansas he has had the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Kansas Science Curriculum Standards writing committee and has worked extensively on developing high quality science education standards for Kansas; amid a great deal of political controversy around evolution.