STEM “Leaky Pipeline”

- It is common to describe the trajectory of a typical STEM career in terms of a “pipeline”
  - Lack of representation of racial and gender minority groups is attributed to a “leak” in this pipeline
- The pipeline model, while calling attention to an important problem has the following problems:
  - It does not capture the reality of a STEM career
  - It does not represent the broad range of interdisciplinary opportunities in STEM
  - It privileges the traditional academic path and invalidates others by exclusion


https://www.genderlimno.org/blog/moving-forward-from-the-passive-leaky-pipeline-to-the-hostile-obstacle-course
An alternative “Braided River” model, encourages holistic thinking about learning ecosystems and career development.

This model facilitates:
- Appreciation for unusual entry points to STEM
- Evolving occupational goals through training
- Opportunities for lifelong continuing education

Normalizes changing pace and direction as part of the process
- Can create support structures to accommodate and empower people to stay in the field