

The GA Sciences Education Foundation announced November 2019 awards of \$8,500 in funding for improving K-12 STEM education to 4 institutions.

1. \$2,500 to the Biocom Institute to support the STEM in Your Backyard Program

Because many San Diego County families were having difficulty coming to Petco Park for the Biocom Institute's San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering EXPO Day, the Biocom Institute created STEM In Your Backyard, a program designed to bring the Festival "EXPO Day" experience directly to communities and schools throughout San Diego County. Funds will help support 10 STEM In Your Backyard programs from September 2019-May 2020. All STEM In Your Backyard's are held at Title 1 schools/areas identified as high need by the City and County of San Diego. Local companies, non-profits and community organizations set up exhibit booths with fun, educational, hands-on activities for the students, which range in number anywhere from ~300 to ~2,000 depending on the size of the school.

2. \$2,500 to San Diego LabRats for their Mobile Lab Van Program

Funds will support the San Diego LabRats Mobile Lab Van Program. This money will be used to bring quality STEM education to students who don't have access to transportation. This will be done by bringing the program to places that financially impacted youth spend time at, such as libraries, malls, and local schools at lunch and after school. This money would be used for the second semester of their first year running this program, which starts in January 2020. Semesters run 10 weeks with multiple trips to different areas each week. The LabRats are a team of professional research scientists who teach science, and whose passion is to introduce young people to the world of STEM. This funding will help students participate in their innovative coding lab.

3. \$2,500 to the North County Education Foundation to support the 2020 Super STEM Saturday event

Funds will support Super STEM Saturday, which is a free, educational community event on 3/14/20 that inspires students to explore STEM at the Cal State University San Marcos campus. Students and families explore hands-on demonstrations, interactive displays, scientist chats, experiments, competitions, and more. Super STEM Saturday is a part of the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering. Funds will pay for event fees and expenses including: exhibition booth table and canopy rentals, event parking, program printing, t-shirts, facility rental, etc. This event attracts over 18,000 attendees from in and around San Diego. It includes all age and ethnic demographics with a special focus on K-12 students interested in the STEM disciplines and careers.

4. \$1,000 to Higher Orbits for their Go For Launch program

Higher Orbits is an educational, 501(c)3 non-profit, established in 2015, with the mission of inspiring the next generation, innovative workforce and leaders through the use of spaceflight and space exploration to improve students' interest and skills in STEM, leadership, teamwork, and communication. The culminating activity is a design project. Each team works together to define and design their own space experiment that could be tested in space on the ISS. The teams present their experiment idea to a judging panel of space and STEM industry experts, who will select one overall winning team experiment for each Go For Launch! event. The winning team's experiment will be launched into space or will compete head-to-head with top-placing Series teams for the opportunity to have their experiment selected the overall Series winner and launched into space. The local event will take place at the San Diego Air and Space Museum on 11/9/19-11/10/19. The support provided will lower student registration cost and provide scholarships to those students for whom cost might be a barrier.

Since 1995, the [General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation](http://www.sci-ed-ga.org/about) has provided support for K-12 STEM education projects, and has given over \$390,000 to science education non-profit agencies in San Diego and other locations to improve elementary, middle, and high school STEM. For more details, please visit: <http://www.sci-ed-ga.org/about>

The Foundation also supports STEM outreach for GA&A employees via the [GASSSS](#) (GA Scientists/Engineers Supporting Science/Engineering for Students) program, where GA employees perform education activities in K-12 settings, are reimbursed for STEM purchases, and are provided with a charge numbers for their time. Since the program started in 2010, over 500 employees have participated and over \$143,000 in funding has been provided.