

On November 1, 2020, the GA Sciences Education Foundation announced awards of \$32,900 in funding to 6 organizations to improve K-12 STEM education.

1. \$3,000 to [The New Children's Museum \(NCM\)](#) to support their Innovator's Lab Makerspace Studio

Funding will support the Innovators Lab makerspace studio at the museum during 2020. The Lab is among the first open makerspace workshop spaces in the nation to provide access to equipment and STEAM programming specifically for children ages 7-13 and their families. Funding will support equipment, tools and materials needed for the Innovators Lab as well as wages for the staff and professional teaching artists who develop and lead daily programming. During the current COVID-19 pandemic and NCM's required closure, NCM has pivoted to serve families through robust digital content, including Lab Challenges and activities. In 2019, NCM served 317,943 total visitors. 26% came for free/at deep discounts including 12,600 schoolchildren/teachers (60% were Title 1) and 25,000 military personnel and their families.

2. \$3,500 to [Coastal Roots Farm](#) for their Environmental STEM education program

Funding will support their Environmental STEM Education Programs for School and Group Visits in the 2020-21 school year. Their hands-on curriculum meets Common Core, Environmental Principles & Concepts (EP&C), and Next Generation Science Standards. Funds will cover program costs including bus transportation and program materials for schools with a high proportion of students from low income backgrounds to visit the Farm at no or reduced cost. In the 2020-21 school year, the Farm will provide farm-based environmental education to at least 2,100 youth and students; no low-income, Title-I, Title-V school, or group will be turned away for inability to pay. Of the students served, the majority are eligible for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program and many of these students have never seen a farm firsthand and have limited access to outdoor educational opportunities.

3. \$9,900 to the [Lakeview Leadership Academy](#) for their Robotics STEM program

Lakeview will use the funds to purchase VEX robotics kits to be used in robotics competitions. The robotics program starts in Aug. 2020 and ends in May 2021. The school has the only robotics program in their district. Lakeview Leadership Academy is a grades 7 to 12 school in the Victor Valley Unified School District in Victorville, California, whose student enrollment of 1,190 students is 90% socioeconomically disadvantaged, and consists of 65% Hispanic and 15% African American. The Lakeview Robotics STEM program will increase presence, achievement, and persistence for underrepresented minorities in STEM fields. Southern California Logistics Airport located in Victorville, California presents a special opportunity for their students to engage in careers in STEM and aerospace while remaining in their community.

4. \$1,500 to the [Association of Women in Science, San Diego chapter](#) for K-12 outreach programs

Funds will be used for Association for Women in Science (AWIS), San Diego chapter, for their K-12 outreach programs for the 2020-2021 school year. STEM outreach supports the AWIS mission of providing STEM educational programming and resources to students of all ages interested in STEM, specifically young women and underrepresented groups interested in careers in STEM. The funds will be used to purchase supplies and promotional materials that will be used for the following events: Virtual STEM in your backyard event; ChemExpo; Expanding Your Horizons Conference; Expo Day (San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering); STEM in your Backyard (San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering). These activities are scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year, which would affect over 60,000 students. AWIS-SD strongly believe in contributing to the community with the development of activities that will reach the diverse student population in San Diego County (48.2% Hispanic, 30.5% White, 4.9% African American).

5. \$5,000 to [Biocom Institute](#) for their Life Science Experience programs

Funding will support the Biocom Institute's facilitation and management of 10 Life Science Experience programs to be held virtually at 10 various Title 1 schools throughout San Diego County during the 2020/21 school year. This unique program is a virtual evolution of their STEM In Your Backyard program- which pre-COVID- brought an in person "STEM Festival" experience directly into Title 1 Schools across the county. These programs will impact ~250 students at each school. They expect ~15 unique professionals to connect with the students throughout the day and over the 10 programs, impacting ~1,250 students total. They are targeting these schools for the program: Oceanside High School, KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy, Castle Park High School, Burbank Elementary, Montgomery Middle School, Lincoln Acres Elementary, and Cesar Chavez Elementary (with three more schools to be added). Each of these schools are Title 1 schools in largely underserved communities.

6. \$10,000 to [A Step Beyond \(ASB\)](#) for their College and Career Readiness Academy

Funds will support the ASB College and Career Readiness Academy. ASB is an after-school Creative Youth Development organization serving the most underserved students in North San Diego County. The program is modeled after a Santa Ana program where 100% of participants graduate from high school, with nearly all matriculating to a college/university. ASB recruits participants from 11 Escondido and San Marcos elementary schools (all designated Title I schools). Once a child is accepted, they participate in ASB at no cost for 9 to 10 years, through high school graduation. ASB adds a new cohort of participants annually, and by 2022 will be serving approximately 350 3rd-12th graders. ASB's service population is predominantly very low-income, and Latinx. ASB includes work-based learning experiences and work exploration in STEAM industries. A MakerSpace is used to ignite the curiosity and excitement of young minds by providing hands-on access to the tools and materials required to tinker and explore STEAM concepts or fields.

Since 1995, the [General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation](#) has provided support for K-12 STEM education projects, and has given over \$516,000 to science education non-profit agencies in San Diego and other locations to improve elementary, middle, and high school STEM, with a focus on traditionally underserved students.

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. Through September 2020, 624 employees have participated in the Foundation's GASSSS outreach program, which has provided over 2600 outreach hours to GA staff and over \$165,000 in funding to schools and programs for STEM supplies and support.