

**MEDIA ALERT:
FIRST QUARTER 2016 GRANTS ANNOUNCED**

KDK-Harman Foundation opened its first quarter grantmaking by awarding more than half of their 2016 grants budget, \$552,000, to non-profit organizations and schools that are focused on Summer STEM programs and \$200,000 for year-round programs. These programs benefit economically disadvantaged students in Austin and surrounding areas, as well as the Foundation's ongoing commitment to supporting STEM programming, out of school time programs, and systems-level change.

Summer STEM Grant recipients were as follows:

AISD - Department of School, Family and Community Education – To Support the Camp STAARburst program, which provides academic intervention to targeted students, who also participate in diverse, hands-on STEM enrichment activities. Rising fourth- and fifth-graders learn from Engineering is Elementary curriculum, while rising third- graders learn from Pet Pals interdisciplinary STEM/literacy curriculum. These curricula were recommended, respectively, by the AISD Science and ELA Departments, and are enhanced to incorporate best practices in OST, ensuring that lessons are youth-driven, TEKS-aligned, and connected to school-day/academic year learning. **\$35,000**

AISD – Office of Innovation and Development - To support the EMVT Summer STEM & Robotics Academy which provides 15-20% of the vertical team's rising 2nd 6th graders with opportunities to engage in rigorous coursework in STEM content areas using Project-Based Learning (PBL) an instructional methodology designed to immerse students in content through collaboration and inquiry-driven learning in the creation of products and artifacts that demonstrate solutions to real world problems. **\$40,000**

AISD – W. Charles Akins High School – To support the Summer STEMbridge Program that will help increase student interest in STEM, particularly among underserved and female students. Four camps focused on different elements of STEM will equip students with the skills and knowledge to be better prepared to pursue STEM career paths in their postsecondary education. **\$35,000**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Austin – To support the Enhanced STEM initiative that will help implement STEM summer Camps at 3 sites with continuous programming at 10 sites. The core concept is to create a series of STEM programs that can be provided in-house by well-trained and qualified STEM Educators. These programs will create access to Industry Standard information and education that will benefit all members through engagement in fun and hands-on activities. **\$25,000**

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Highland Lakes –To support Burnet County's rural areas, where there are few educational enhancement opportunities outside of school. These funds will help in supporting the club members with access to computer programs and to the Internet in order to enhance their computer skills, improve their use of screen time, and reduce summer learning loss. **\$35,000**

Design Connect Create – To support a physics camp to Austin ISD for 20 young women who will be juniors in 16-17 school year and are signed up to take Pre-AP physics or AP physics-I and will have completed Algebra II by the end of their sophomore year. The funds will be used to pay for the teacher and assistant stipends, provide local transportation for students who need it, provide lunch to the participants and a graphing calculator to the participants that meet the attendance criteria. The funds

will also be used to provide supplies for the camp including lab supplies and student materials. **\$20,000**

Girlstart – To support Girlstart Summer Camps, which are intensive (40 hour) summer programs for girls entering the 4th-8th grades. These programs achieve consistent positive outcomes by combining informal educational strategies with challenging and relevant STEM curriculum. Girlstart Summer Camp provides individualized experiences that develop a strong conceptual understanding of STEM subjects and increase participants' interest in STEM activities and careers. **\$14,000**

HACA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. DBA Austin Pathways – To support the implementation of an innovative summer pilot program designed to bring STEM education to low-income, elementary and middle school students (6-14 years old) residing in six public housing communities in Austin, Texas. In total, educators will deliver six camps: three wearable tech camps targeting 10-14 year olds with an emphasis on using Arduino based microcontrollers to translate computer programming into real world interaction via sensors and outputs and three camps targeting 6-9 year olds which will have participants respond to a zombie apocalypse using hands-on experimentation and engineering. Additionally, the pilot program will offer professional development in STEM education by providing three high school students residing in public housing communities an opportunity to co-facilitate the STEM youth camps. **\$40,000**

Hill Country Science Mill – To support the growth and scaling of the 2015 pilot STEM career immersion (SCI) camps. They are expanding both the scope and depth of their camps by focusing on enrolling targeted students in both Burnet and Blanco counties; piloting a new technology and innovation camp for 6th-8th graders, in addition to a new entry level STEM careers camp for 4th-5th graders; and continuing our connection with students in post-camp activities. Each camp will focus on hands-on STEM career activities, exploration of our career-focused museum exhibits, interaction with STEM career mentors, and access to their online learning portal. Funds will be used for curriculum development, instructor training and salaries, outreach events, student transportation, supplies, equipment, and other direct and indirect costs of the camp. **\$50,000**

KLRU-TV – To Support KLRU 's building the capacity of local summer STEM programs by 1) Complementing onsite activities with educational media resources that support each program's unique objectives and 2) Providing practical strategies to extend summer learning, helping students gain skills for healthy uses of media and developing habits of independent learning. Funds will be used to provide a customized blend of educational media, technology, staff training and hands-on instruction for each program, including parent engagement events where possible. **\$25,000**

Mathworks at Texas State University – To Support the Junior Summer Math Camp (JSMC) program, which provides opportunities to students of all backgrounds to raise their mathematical abilities to a high level. The Mathworks JSMC includes a commuter day camp in San Marcos, a commuter camp in Round Rock, and a residential camp on the Texas State University campus. More than half of the JSMC students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and it is only with scholarship help that they have access to high quality summer programs to not only minimize summer learning loss, but also to enrich their problem-solving abilities. **\$25,000**

Phoenix Arising Aviation Academy – To support their STEMulus Summer Program, which combats summer learning loss while immersing, inspiring and exposing students to STEM in a unique real-world context. Students will be engaged in STEM topics through inquiry-based experimentation, immersive technology and engaging hands-on math and science learning activities. The program develops a

broadened STEM identity in students and increase confidence, interest and understanding of STEM and STEM career pathways. These funds will fully cover the direct costs to engage 210 students in high-caliber STEM learning experiences through 338 hours of STEM programming in collaboration with the Austin Independent School District and community partners. **\$25,000**

Skillpoint Alliance - To support existing and additional Velocity Prep programs at low-income schools during summer 2016. Velocity Prep is a PAID internship providing students traditionally underrepresented in STEM with hands-on exposure to energy science, computer science, engineering, nanotechnology, civil engineering, business and marketing. **\$25,000**

TACC at the University of Texas – To support CODE @ TACC, which is a free, two-week, summer program for rising high school juniors and seniors that incorporates a project-based learning approach to expose students to STEM careers. Students foster their talent and creativity by being introduced to the principles of computing technology using microcomputers and real-world examples. The CODE@TACC curriculum is developed by researchers and scientists at TACC, who have expertise in using and teaching skills such as programming, parallel processing, machine learning, and visualization techniques. **\$30,000**

Center for STEM Education at the University of Texas – To support the Sustainit STEMbridge program that consists of an integrated 3-week series of camps designed for high school and highly motivated middle school students. The camps provide students an opportunity to explore STEM subjects in an interdisciplinary, hands-on manner through a project-based learning approach. The series will incorporate a professional development (PD) component for teachers to allow educators to incorporate aspects of the camp content into their classrooms. - **\$27,000**

GeoFORCE at the University of Texas – To support 15 summer weeklong field experiences with overnight stays. This request will support additional Austin youth, and an additional instructor, science teacher, trail driver, and four counselors to the 9th Grade GeoFORCE Academy trip to Austin and Port Aransas. GeoFORCE Texas addresses summer learning loss in economically disadvantaged populations while engaging students in STEM practices encouraging them to pursue STEM careers. The increasing importance of a STEM geoscience workforce to the national and economic security of the United States make it imperative that the diverse pool of talent in the population needs to be drawn upon. GeoFORCE Texas is a powerful, 11 year old precollege program that provides hands-on science learning experiences for high-school students, encouraging them to pursue STEM degrees and geoscience careers. Experienced faculty and research scientists lead Field activities exploring the geology of the surrounding hill country and Port Aransas. **\$30,000**

UTeach Outreach at the University of Texas - To support the UT PREP STEM Pipeline, which is four consecutive full-day, six-week summer sessions. The pipeline begins with students that have graduated from 6th or 7th grade with an entering enrollment target of 300 students in 2016 and the expectation of sustaining 3000 students in PREP 14 by 2021. Students will receive individual attention from high quality vetted instructors, UT student interns, and industry professionals. Participants will share mealtime with college students, explore campus facilities, swim, and play sports. Students will be able to view higher education as an attainable and feasible goal. **\$25,000**

Women in Engineering Program and the University of Texas – To support the CREATEatUT, which is a high school outreach and recruitment program for high school sophomore and junior women interested in math, science or engineering. CREATEatUT introduces students to a variety of engineering studies and

exciting career options, exposes students to female engineering role models through hands-on workshops and engineering sessions facilitated and attended by engineering students, faculty and industry professionals, and provides current students with leadership and presentation skills development opportunities. Each day of CREATEatUT focuses on a different discipline and/or theme of engineering to provide focused hands-on activities, demonstrations and/or tours, and connections with role models. **\$16,000**

Welcome Table – To support Project Scholars who will participate in daily hands, project based learning on integrated math, science, technology and art activities. Scholars will build robots in the Lego Lab; explore science and math using Delta Science modules. Freedom Schools strengthens STEM learning and relevancy through weekly field trips that incorporates hands-on learning with written reflection activities to undergird scholars literacy skills. Freedom Schools combines literacy and STEM learning using an Integrated Reading Curriculum that includes activities such as listening and responding to high quality literature, reading, chanting, dancing and singing phonics instructions. Scholars read one STEM and one trade book weekly that may be added to their home libraries. **\$30,000**

Year-round Grant Recipients were as follows:

Austin Partners in Education – To support APIE’s Math Classroom Coaching (MCC) program works to narrow the mathematics achievement gap by providing volunteer-led, small-group math instruction to 8th graders at five Austin ISD middle in under-resourced communities. The program boosts student interest and confidence in math by providing the opportunity to practice math regularly with an adult who cares about their progress. The program, which is aligned with the Austin ISD curriculum and the state-mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards, aims to empower students academically, improve their attitudes toward math and learning, and prepare them for high school algebra. MCC volunteers work with students to expand their mathematical vocabulary, improve familiarity with grade-level objectives, build confidence in problem solving, and foster an appreciation for math. **\$50,000**

Burnet CISD – To support a Biomedical Engineering medical detectives module in the PLTW GTT course, which has shown the greatest interest for females in STEM. This course sequence is designed to provide a STEM pipeline that would appeal to a new demographic of students. The funds will allow for the training of two teachers and purchase the PLTW Biomedical Engineering year 1 and 2 curriculum. Burnet High School has sent out course selection sheets and can build 4 classes of this curriculum next year. The interest lies primarily with students interested in the medical field, doctor, nurse or researcher, and has a wide-ranging appeal to all students. **\$60,000**

Foundation Communities – To support the PATHS program, which provides reading support and health/physical fitness education as well as healthy snacks, computer time, unstructured outdoor play, arts activities, and homework help. Using established curricula that measure students’ progress, the PATHS program directly addresses two problems children from low-income, high-risk students face— low reading scores and childhood obesity. Their model of providing programming right where families live and our strong focus on academic outcomes set us apart from other area afterschool programs, making PATHS an exemplary afterschool program and a wise investment. **\$30,000**

Harvard PEAR – To Support year 2 of the Pilot Common Instrument and Summer STEM Training project. The Harvard Program in Education, Afterschool & Resiliency (PEAR) project equipped the KDK-Harman Foundation grantees with the training and tools to use quality observation and outcome measurement instruments. It also enabled the analysis of large data sets. In contrast to the earlier step of creating a common instrument, the next phase of work will include other contributors to the STEM assessment field to establish a Common Instrument Suite. **\$60,000**

About KDK-Harman Foundation

Janet E. Harman founded the KDK-Harman Foundation in December 2004. The Foundation provides financial and capacity-building resources to education-focused nonprofits that assist disadvantaged Central Texas families to help them achieve educational success. The ultimate goal of such funding is to transform their lives from poverty to financial independence to enable a better life for themselves and future generations. The Foundation supports programs within Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties.