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SEP 17

Corporations and foundations filling the STEM funding gap

By Sarah Simpson



FUNDING

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As the economic crisis of the past several years lingers, school systems are facing [severe budget challenges](#), and public dollars for education are dwindling in many cities and towns all over the nation. This lack of funding hits children from low-income communities especially hard as they may also be losing access to afterschool programs, which have emerged as a place where children from diverse backgrounds can engage in innovative, hands-on STEM learning. Thankfully, many corporations and foundations are stepping in to fill the critical [funding gap](#). They are helping to raise awareness of the importance of STEM in afterschool, and provide students with new, exciting opportunities to pursue STEM education in preparation for college and/or STEM jobs.

The Afterschool Alliance would like to recognize the generosity and foresight of several corporations who have recently bolstered STEM-based afterschool education by investing in a number of afterschool programs.

- Last month the [Symantec Foundation](#) provided \$250,000 in [grant funding](#) to Boys & Girls Clubs of America chapters across the United States to provide online content for Club teenagers, new training opportunities for Club professionals, and various STEM-focused educational programs.
- Citizen Schools recently received \$650,000 from [Cisco](#) to help middle school students across 31 schools in seven different states prepare for high school, college and the professional world. [Cisco's investment](#) will allow Citizen Schools to provide new avenues of STEM education so that students will not only be prepared for, but passionate about pursuing careers in STEM.
- The [Motorola Solutions Foundation](#) recently announced more than \$4 million in funding through its [Innovation Generation Grant Program](#). More than 100 different organizations across the country will benefit from this funding to help provide STEM-based resources to teachers and STEM education programs to students, particularly girls and underrepresented minorities.
- Thanks to the [Northrop Grumman Corporation](#), 12 high school students from the Baltimore and Annapolis areas will be attending college this fall with a combined total of \$240,000 in engineering scholarships. These students were involved in the [High School Involvement Partnership](#), a mentoring, internship and scholarship program sponsored by Northrop Grumman and focused on STEM-based education for future careers in STEM.

Thanks to the valuable investments of these corporate partners, afterschool programs across the nation are more able to promote the importance of STEM-based career opportunities, and create new and innovative avenues for STEM-based education that otherwise may not have existed.

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