

STEM Surges In Colorado: \$800,000 Lockheed Martin Investment Expands Curriculum In Denver Public Schools

DENVER, May 6, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education took center stage today at the Colorado Convention Center, where Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) announced an \$800,000 STEM investment in partnership with [Project Lead The Way](#) and the [Denver Public Schools Foundation](#) to expand STEM programming for [Denver Public Schools](#) (DPS) students.

The Lockheed Martin investment will underwrite the cost of implementing Project Lead The Way's STEM-based curricula at up to 100 elementary, middle and high schools in DPS over a three-year period, depending on grade level and scope of program implementation.

Project Lead The Way is a nonprofit organization that provides transformative learning experiences for K-12 students and teachers across the United States through pathways in computer science, engineering and biomedical science.

"Studies show that nearly 20 percent of the U.S. workforce—more than 26 million jobs—require significant STEM knowledge and skills," said Dr. Vince Bertram, president and CEO of Project Lead The Way. "Schools help students through Project Lead The Way by developing in-demand knowledge and transportable skills—like creative thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration—to succeed in all career paths and thrive in our rapidly advancing world."

The announcement was held in conjunction with a Society of Women Engineers' Girls Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math event—where more than 1,000 middle school girls participated in science and technology activities. Denver Public School students who participated received a taste of how science and math can be fun and help solve real-world problems.

Verónica Figoli, president and CEO of the Denver Public Schools Foundation, spoke about why it's important to continue STEM momentum in the classroom and how the Lockheed Martin investment will help make this possible.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be able to introduce more students to the STEM environment by bringing compelling, career-focused STEM content into more classrooms," she explained.

STEM education is the foundation for the nation's future, particularly in the aerospace industry that thrives in Colorado. With the [second largest aerospace economy](#) in the nation, Colorado has a need to fill its talent pipeline with skilled, technical graduates—the base of which is built upon early access to STEM education. On a national level, the [U.S. Department of Education estimates](#) a supply demand gap of 1.3 million in STEM talent by 2020 in the U.S., which only further increases the need for widespread STEM education like the programming offered by Project Lead The Way.

Mark Valerio, vice president, Enterprise Solutions and Integration for Lockheed Martin Space Systems, underscored the tremendous impact that STEM programming has on industry sustainability.

"Today's elementary, middle and high schoolers are tomorrow's scientists and space explorers. The earlier we ingrain science, technology, engineering and math into their education, the earlier they will learn the skillsets needed to become those visionary thinkers who will continue to move our country forward," he stated. "It's absolutely vital that we make this educational investment now, so we can secure a strong scientific and economic future for our country."

Lockheed Martin has committed \$6 million nationally to expand Project Lead The Way programs in select U.S. school districts. In addition to Denver, Lockheed Martin has similar partnerships in Huntsville, Alabama; Fort Worth, Texas; Orange County, Florida; and Washington, D.C. The grant funding covers program implementation costs, including Project Lead The Way teacher professional development training, software, classroom equipment and supplies. In addition to the grant funding, Lockheed Martin engineers volunteer in classrooms—building relationships with students as both role models and mentors.

Lockheed Martin has partnered with Project Lead the Way to help implement STEM Curriculum in school districts across the U.S. since 2007. In 2015, Lockheed Martin directed \$13 million and nearly 110,000 volunteer hours specifically to STEM initiatives.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 125,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. For more information, visit <http://lockheedmartin.com/>.

About the Denver Public Schools Foundation

The Denver Public Schools Foundation is the Denver Public Schools' fundraising partner. It generates resources, builds relationships and champions public education to help Every Child Succeed. It is entirely built and sustained by the community; by supporting the DPS Foundation, businesses and individuals are creating positive, sustainable change in Denver's schools and contributing to the success of our next generation. For more information, visit www.dpsfoundation.org.

About Denver Public Schools

Denver Public Schools (DPS) is committed to meeting the educational needs of every student, with great schools in every neighborhood. Its goal is to provide every child in Denver with rigorous, enriching educational opportunities from preschool through high school graduation. DPS is comprised of 185 schools, including traditional, magnet, charter and pathways schools, with a current total enrollment of approximately 91,000 students—77.5 percent of which are minorities. DPS is the fastest-growing urban school district in the country in terms of enrollment, and is the fastest-growing large school district in Colorado in terms of academic growth. Learn more at <https://www.dpsk12.org/>.

About Project Lead The Way

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. Through pathways in computer science, engineering and biomedical science, K-12 students learn problem-solving strategies, critical and creative thinking, and how to communicate and collaborate. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an evolving world. More than 8,000 elementary, middle and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information, visit www.pltw.org.

About GESTEM

Girls Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (GESTEM) is an annual event hosted by the Rocky Mountain Society of Women's Engineer's (SWE), for approximately 1,000 middle school girls in Denver. Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company provides philanthropic grant support to GESTEM, and approximately 50 Lockheed Martin employee volunteers support the event as guides and workshop presenters. Approximately 130 DPS 6th and 7th grade girls from five DPS schools are among those participating in the event. Learn more about this year's event at <http://www.swe-rms.org/gestem.html>.

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