

FUTURE DEFINING

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AeroVironment continues to support local communities through its IMPACT! Corporate Social Responsibility Program

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AeroVironment continues to make a positive impact in the Ventura County community through its Corporate Social Responsibility Program. In 2021, AeroVironment supported the Simi Valley Education Foundation in funding 18 STEM-related enhancement grants to advance school projects in science, technology, education and math.

The Simi Valley Unified School District is currently implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for K-12 students in the current and upcoming school years. The standards were developed by states to improve science education for all students and set expectations for what students should know and be able to do.

A goal for developing the NGSS was to create a set of research-based, up-to-date, K-12 science standards. These standards give local educators the flexibility to design classroom learning experiences that stimulate students' interest in science and prepares them for college, careers, and future endeavors.

In the elementary schools, funding provides students with science activity tubs and science libraries. Each learning unit begins with exploring the high interest reading materials to expose

the students to the lesson concepts. Then, they investigate the concepts through hands-on activities since students comprehend and retain concepts better when they have hands-on experience.

Some of the activity tubs include magnetic shapes and snap circuit kits, which encourage pattern recognition, collaboration, and problem solving through a kinesthetic experience. The

opportunity for hands-on experience is essential for the students to develop a deep understanding of the key concepts.

At the middle and high school level, students crave hands-on experiments and want to manipulate physical materials and observe phenomena in the world around them - so funding is directed toward these interests.

The middle school grant secured digital



*STEM activity bins at a local Simi Valley elementary school are available through the outreach program, 2021.
Photo Credit: Cindy Jacoby, Simi Valley Education Foundation*

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microscopes, which allow the students to view living and non-living specimens as the content best fits the lesson plan. Through the use of microscopes and a visual learning experience, students showed a more positive reaction to STEM-related projects.

The high school students learn best by participating in engaging experiments. To illustrate the concept of energy conservation, the students physically participate in an experiment involving a blowing ball and block and tackle assembly. Engaging with mechanical energy shows the students how it aids in the design of cars, parachutes, bridges, and more. This tactile involvement allows the students to see how scientific concepts are adapted in real-life scenarios.

AeroVironment is proud to be a steward of the local community and looks forward to continuing to support various STEM programs in 2022.



Elementary school students build objects with the magnetics kit, 2021. Photo Credit: Cindy Jacoby, Simi Valley Education Foundation