

GROWING OPPORTUNITY

2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT & STRATEGIC VISION

*BUILDING THE
FOUNDATION OF
APPALACHIA'S STEM
ECOSYSTEM*



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A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

One year ago, STEMpact WV existed only as a dream.

As full-time public school educators, we have spent our careers watching students' lives change through hands-on STEM education. What began as a single robotics team in Hardy County grew into one of the region's most successful youth robotics programs. Along the way, we kept hearing one simple question from families across our region:

"How can my child be part of this?"

Too often, our answer was, "We wish they could."

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the country, but too many of our children grow up in what we often call a STEM desert—a place filled with talent, curiosity, and potential, yet with limited access to meaningful STEM opportunities. We knew we could do more.

In June 2025, we founded STEMpact WV with one guiding belief:

Where a child lives should never determine the opportunities they have to discover STEM.

Our goal was simple: to extend the same life-changing STEM experiences beyond the walls of our own classrooms and school district so that more children—regardless of where they live or how they learn—could discover their potential.

Today, just one year later, that vision is becoming reality. Through ScienceQuests, competitive robotics, homeschool programming, the PHYSICS Community STEM Center, and growing partnerships with schools, businesses, and community organizations, we are expanding access to hands-on STEM learning throughout the Potomac Highlands.

None of this would be possible without the support of our students, families, volunteers, mentors, educators, donors, and partners who believed in this vision from the very beginning. Thank you for investing in our mission—and in the future of Appalachia.

While we are proud of what we've accomplished during our first year, we believe we are only getting started. The pages that follow tell the story of our impact, our partnerships, and our vision for building a thriving STEM ecosystem where every child has the opportunity to discover, explore, create, innovate, and lead.

Thank you for joining us as we continue growing opportunity across the Potomac Highlands.

With gratitude,

 
Alicen Adkins & Bonnie Crites

Co-Founders & Co-Executive Directors



STEMPACTWV

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BY THE NUMBERS

1 Year Performance Summary June 2025-June 2026



Founded: June 10, 2025

Mission: Empowering Future Appalachian Innovators

Services:

- FIRST® Robotics Teams
- Monthly ScienceQuests™
- Educator Workshops
- Student STEM Workshops
- Homeschool Portfolio Reviews
- Science Fair Support
- Student Tutoring
- Community STEM Events

Students Served



149

Robotics Teams Supported



45

Counties Served



5

Robotics Program

Students

Teams

ScienceQuests™

Students

**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**
EXPLORE

AGES
6-10

101

37

**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**
CHALLENGE

AGES
9-16

30

6

**FIRST
TECH
CHALLENGE**

AGES
12-18
GRADES
7-12

15

2

Total Robotics

146

Chemistry Quest

9

Space Quest

9

Earth Quest

9

Genetics Quest

7

Motion Quest

9

**many students participated in multiple ScienceQuests*



Students Tutored

5

Homeschool Student Portfolio Reviews

7

Educator Workshops

3

Student STEM Workshops

1

Community Events Supported

11

Grant Funding Awarded



\$10,000

VELA Education Fund Founders Grant



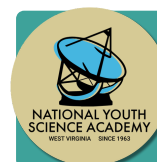
\$10,000

WVPEC Focus Forward AI Grant



\$2,000

Gene Haas Foundation Competition Teams Grant



\$200

NYSA BRITE Challenge 1st Place Award



\$200

Remake Learning Days Event Host Mini-Grant

Total Competitive Grant Funding Secured:

\$22,400

PROGRAMS

Building a comprehensive STEM ecosystem that supports students, educators, and families through hands-on learning, competitive robotics, workforce development, and community partnerships.

FIRST® Robotics Programs

Competitive robotics teams for students in grades 1–12 through FIRST® LEGO® League Explore, Challenge, and FIRST® Tech Challenge.

Monthly ScienceQuests™

Four-week inquiry-based science experiences where students explore real-world STEM through experiments and engineering design.

Student Workshops

Interactive workshops exploring robotics, 3D printing, engineering, coding, artificial intelligence, and other hands-on STEM experiences.

Student Tutoring

Individual tutoring by certified educators to build confidence and strengthen academic success.

Homeschool Services

Academic portfolio reviews and STEM enrichment opportunities for homeschool and Hope Scholarship students.

Educator Workshops

Professional development for teachers, robotics and drone coaches, and community educators focused on STEM instruction and hands-on learning.

Community STEM Outreach

Hands-on demonstrations, STEM festivals, robotics outreach, and family events throughout the Potomac Highlands.



PARTNERS

We believe meaningful partnerships with schools, businesses, and industry professionals create life-changing opportunities for the next generation of Appalachian innovators.

Education Partners



- Hardy Co. Schools
- Eastern WVCTC
- WVSTA
- VELA Network
- WV Hope Scholarship

Industry Partners



- American Woodmark
- Design-Build-Live
- SkyScout
- Qlik Data Integration

Community Partners

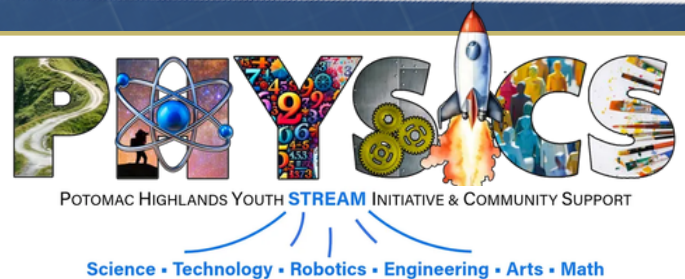


- FIRST Chesapeake
- Moorefield Robotics Boosters
- National Youth Science Academy
- WV Robotics Alliance
- Hardy County Chamber

Funding Partners



- VELA Education Fund
- WVPEC
- Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
- Gene Haas Foundation
- Remake Learning Days



In partnership with PHYSICS, STEMpact WV is creating a permanent home for STEM education in the Potomac Highlands. Opening September 5, 2026, the center will include a community makerspace, robotics workshop, STEM classroom, and educational retail space. Students are even helping renovate the facility alongside professional contractors, gaining authentic workforce experience while building a space that will inspire future generations.



Student Renovations



Concept Art

BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT

Appalachia has never lacked talent—only opportunity.

Our vision is to transform the Potomac Highlands into a thriving STEM ecosystem where every child can discover, explore, create, and lead. Every new partnership, program, and opportunity brings us one step closer to that future.

WHERE A CHILD LIVES
SHOULD NEVER DETERMINE
THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY
HAVE TO DISCOVER STEM

2026-2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Launch STEM Sprouts™, a comprehensive elementary STEM initiative.
- Expand ScienceQuests™ with exclusive STEMpact-developed curriculum.
- Launch StorySprouts™, combining children's literature with hands-on STEM.
- Expand FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenge robotics programs.
- Launch Aerial Drone Competition (ADC) and ADC Pro teams.
- Bring robotics into every second-grade classroom at Moorefield Elementary.
- Offer student workshops in CAD, rocketry, engineering, AI, coding, and more.
- Provide free community AI Literacy courses.
- Launch AI App Development courses for students and adults.
- Host robotics competitions, STEM festivals/fairs, and community STEM events.
- Expand Family STEM Nights and youth enrichment programs.
- Launch game-based learning events for youth.
- Continue tutoring, homeschool portfolio reviews, and academic support.
- Provide educator workshops, robotics coach training, and STEM professional development.
- Expand robotics training and consulting for students, teams, coaches, mentors, and schools.
- Strengthen workforce partnerships, mentorship, and STEM career pathways.
- Expand makerspace workshops, innovation challenges, and community events at the PHYSICS Center.
- Continue developing the PHYSICS Center as the region's hub for STEM education and innovation.



2026-2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Expand Access for Rural Students



Bring STEM to more communities.

Build a Regional STEM Ecosystem



Connect people.
Create opportunity.

Inspire Innovation



Spark curiosity through
hands-on learning.

Create Pathways for the Future

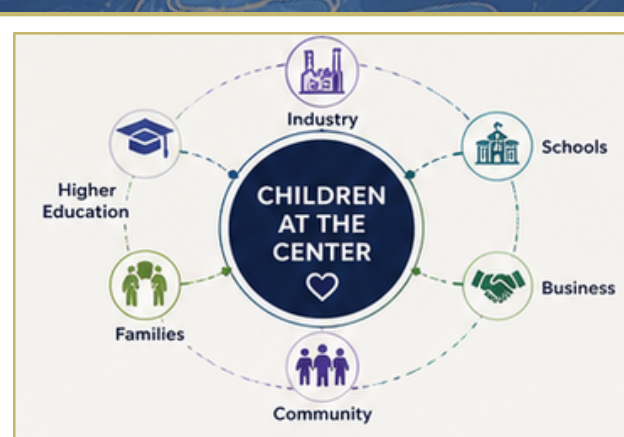


Guide learners toward
future success.

Grow Sustainable Impact



Build today.
Inspire tomorrow.



Children are at the heart of
everything we do, but they don't
grow in isolation.

STEMpact brings together families, schools, higher education, businesses, mentors, and community partners to create a connected STEM ecosystem. Together, we're building opportunities that help every child discover their potential.

Join Us IN BUILDING APPALACHIA'S STEM ECOSYSTEM

Every partnership expands opportunity.
Every volunteer inspires curiosity.
Every sponsor fuels innovation.

Partner



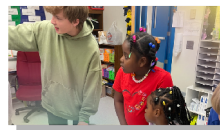
Help us create new opportunities for students.

Sponsor



Invest in programs that transform lives.

Volunteer



Share your time, talents, and expertise.

Advocate



Help us spread the mission and make an impact.

Together, we're building the **STEM** ecosystem our region has never had—and creating opportunities that will impact generations to come.

FOLLOW US:

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- @stempactwv
- STEMpact WV Corporation

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STEMpact WV Corporation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering future Appalachian innovators. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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