

# STEM CLASSROOM GRANTS



**2023-2024 REPORT FOR**



**VAIL HEALTH**

**E·f(ec)** Education Foundation of Eagle County  
be part of the solution

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**Andrea Glass,** Project Manager  
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**Dina Cadivid,** Creative Arts Director & Administration  
**Gabby Gallegos,** B.E. Partner Youth Advisor

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*Significant Support Needs*

# MATH & STEM CENTERS



# Classroom Grant Recipients 2023-2024

## Carla Camino Wright

\$200

STEM Enrichment at Avon Elementary  
AVMR materials

## Kelsea Christiansen

\$4,000

STEM Enrichment at Avon Elementary  
SSN Math & STEM Centers

## Matt Clark

\$282

STEM Enrichment at Berry Creek  
Complete Class Sets of Ecology Unit Student Books

## David Hanson

\$3,009

STEM Enrichment at RCHS  
Film and Video Class

## Kathryn H Lunde

\$2,999

STEM Enrichment at Gysum Creek  
Sphero Bolt Robot + Coding

## Julia Richards

\$3,178

STEM Enrichment at Eagle County Schools  
(BMHS, BCMS, HPS, EVMS, GCMS)  
Science Olympiad

## Celeste Landy

\$662.36

Music & Arts Enrichment at BMHS  
Sight-Reading Books for BMHS Band  
and Orchestra

## Sara Strobing

\$2,500

Music & Arts Enrichment at RCHS  
Make Your Own Meow Wolf!

## Amy Vanwel

\$2,000

Music & Arts Enrichment at BCMS  
M-Term

## Elisabeth Gart

\$500

General Equity at Avon Elementary  
Student Celebration Brag Tags

## Dana Harrison

\$3,000

General Equity at Avon Elementary  
Parent Engagement Nights

## Julia Richards

\$1,000

General Equity at Red Canyon High School  
Creating a More Equitable Library



SSN Math & STEM Centers



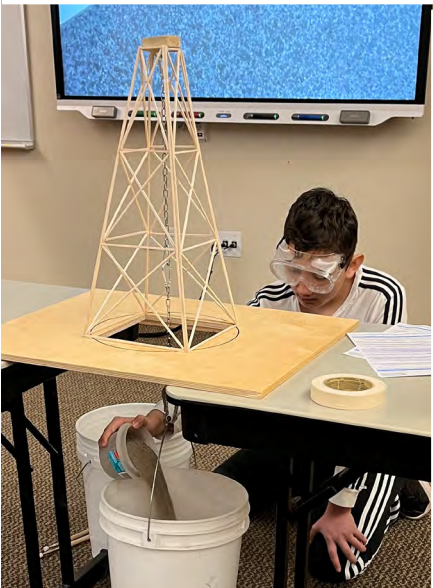
Science Olympiad



SSN Math & STEM Centers



# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



## List of Grantees Who Received an Email with Vail Health Acknowledgement

### STEM

Avon Elementary School - AVMR Materials & SSN Math & STEM Centers

Berry Creek Middle School - Ecology Unit Student Books

Red Canyon High School - STEAM Film and Video Class

Gypsum Creek Middle School - Sphero Bolt Robot & Coding Computer Science

Eagle County Schools (BMHS, BCMS, HPS, EVMS, GCMS) - Science Olympiad

### Arts & Music Enrichment

Battle Mountain High School - Sight-Reading Books for BMHS Band & Orchestra

Red Canyon High School - Make Your Own Meow Wolf!


Berry Creek Middle School - M-Term Experiential Curriculum

### Equity

Avon Elementary School - Student Celebration Curriculum & Parent Engagement Nights

Red Canyon High School & World Academy - Creating a More Equitable Library

See Sample Letter  
on Next Page

**From:** Tessa Kirchner [tessak@efec.org](mailto:tessak@efec.org)   
**Subject:** Congratulations! EFEC Classroom Grant Award  
**Date:** November 9, 2023 at 3:11 PM  
**To:** [kelsea.christiansen@eagleschools.net](mailto:kelsea.christiansen@eagleschools.net), Dana Harrison [dana.harrison@eagleschools.net](mailto:dana.harrison@eagleschools.net)  
**Cc:** Wendy Rimel [wendyr@efec.org](mailto:wendyr@efec.org)



**E·f(ec) STEM | Arts & Music | Equity**  
**Grant Award Notice**

**Dear Ms. Christiansen,**

**The Education Foundation of Eagle County (EFEC) is honored to award \$4,000.00**

**STEM GRANT DETAILS:** Funding will be used for SSN Math & Stem Centers

Thank you for applying for funding to support equitable student learning initiatives. Congratulations! The 2023-2024 school year fall grant cycle was competitive.

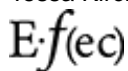
- EFEC funded 12 grants awarding over \$23,000 in requests district wide.
- EFEC is dedicated to education and the intellectual and emotional growth of students through equitable access to in-school enrichment programs, mental health services, and efforts to recognize and retain top teacher talent.

Angelica Cortes Rodriguez at the district office will assist in funding your grant. She can be reached at 970.328.2752 or [angelica.cortesrodriguez@eagleschools.net](mailto:angelica.cortesrodriguez@eagleschools.net).

Please send us photos to [efec@efec.org](mailto:efec@efec.org) of your students utilizing your grant. Your photos help us to secure this much needed funding!

Thank you for your commitment to equity. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [tessak@efec.org](mailto:tessak@efec.org) or 970.390.0966 with any questions.

Tessa Kirchner



Education Foundation of Eagle County

Tessa Kirchner

970.390.0966

[tessak@efec.org](mailto:tessak@efec.org)

<http://www.efec.org>

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Special thanks to the Vail Health for its generosity and commitment to EFEC STEM grant funding.



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 28, 2023

Press Contact: Wendy Rimel

wendyr@efec.org

(970) 390-8115

## **Education Foundation of Eagle County Awards 2023-2024 Classroom Grants to Eagle County Schools**

The Education Foundation of Eagle County (EFEC) is thrilled to announce its 2023-2024 Classroom Grant awards, supporting initiatives in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM), Equity, and Arts and Music Enrichment for students in Eagle County public schools.

Thanks to the generous contributions from donors, local businesses, volunteers, and key community partners, including [Vail Health](#), Vail Resorts EPIC Promise, Sydney Frank Foundation, and The Town of Avon, EFEC proudly awarded over \$24,000 in grants to fund innovative and essential education programs. These funds were distributed as follows:

**Arts & Music Enrichment:** Battle Mountain High School, Red Canyon High School, and Berry Creek Middle School.

**Equity Grants:** Avon Elementary School, Red Canyon High School, and World Academy.

**STEM Grants Sponsored by [Vail Health](#):** Avon Elementary School, Berry Creek Middle School, Red Canyon High School, Gypsum Creek Middle School, Battle Mountain High School, Homestake Peak School, and Eagle Valley Middle School.

### **A Decade of Commitment to STEM Education by [Vail Health](#)**

[Vail Health](#) has been a cornerstone supporter of Eagle County's commitment to STEM education for nearly ten years. This year's grant of \$15,000 provides teachers with the resources to develop inspiring and forward-thinking STEM projects and curricula. Vail Health's unwavering support aims to spark interest in healthcare careers while fostering critical skills in science and technology.

In the 2023-2024 school year part of the [Vail Health](#) funds supported Eagle County students' participation in the Colorado Science Olympiad, where 34 students qualified and competed. "These opportunities allow students to engage in hands-on learning experiences that cultivate curiosity, problem-solving, and collaboration," stated Marjorie Oyler, Director of Gifted & Talented Education —skills essential for the future of healthcare and technology.

[Link to photos](#)

### **About EFEC**

EFEC's efforts, in partnership with organizations like [Vail Health](#), focus on teacher retention, equitable access to resources, and ensuring that every student in the Vail Valley has the opportunity to excel.

For more information on EFEC, including ways to support, visit [www.EFEC.org](http://www.EFEC.org).





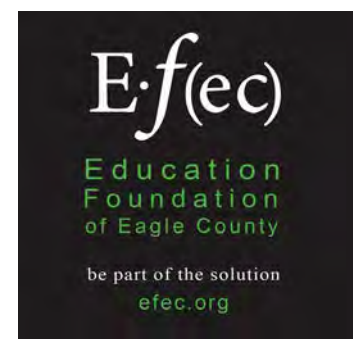
Vail Health proudly supports the Education Foundation of Eagle County's Classroom Grants program. Since 2012, EFEC has provided teachers and principals the opportunity to apply for funding to meet the needs of their classrooms for STEM, Equity, and Arts and Music. Because of Colorado's education funding, which, depending on the metric, ranks anywhere from 45th to 50th in the nation, available resources are chronically underfunded.

Vail Health is committed to K-12 STEM learning in Eagle County and has partnered with EFEC to fund STEM grants across Eagle County School District's 19 schools and 6,700 students. This year, Vail Health's \$15,000 gift will make possible innumerable opportunities across the district for hands-on learning in robotics, math, lab studies, and middle and high school participation in Science Olympiad across the valley.

For the first time, every student who attends Eagle County Schools middle and high schools and has an interest can apply to participate in the premier team STEM competition in the nation, Science Olympiad. At Battle Mountain High School and Berry Creek Middle School, the competition is fierce. Students try out to be on the SciOly team, and the standby team is deep. Students wanting to participate are placed into events based on their interests, science scores on placement tests, and their 5th-grade sciences CMAS scores. Marjorie Oyler, who leads the program and applied for EFEC's Classroom STEM Grant, shared, "Once the students are placed into events in teams of two, they start working with their teammates to research the event and what that particular competition entails. This year's events include Anatomy and Physiology, Bridge Building, Crime Busters, Experimental Design, Disease Detectives, Ornithology, and more. Students learn the scientific process. Students then transfer their learning into their science classrooms."

Vail Health's support of EFEC's Classroom Grant program effectively empowers Eagle County School's STEM teachers to educate with an innovative and engaging curriculum that ensures successful outcomes for every student, regardless of socioeconomic status.

For more information, visit [efec.org](http://efec.org).





### Community Give-Back Spotlight: STEM Grant Funds Olympiad

For nearly 10 years, Vail Health has partnered with the Education Foundation of Eagle County to fund classroom grants for Equity, STEM and Arts & Music. Each year, Vail Health has given over \$15,000 to teachers for projects and curriculum dedicated to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The goal is to inspire students to consider careers in healthcare. In 2023, some of the funds were used to send students from the Eagle County School District to the Colorado Science Olympiad competition. Congratulations to all 34 students who qualified and participated! Click below to learn more about this meaningful partnership and other ways Vail Health supports local organizations to elevate health across our mountain communities.

[READ MORE >](#)



### Behavioral Health Innovation Series

#### Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health

December 7, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM MST | ZOOM

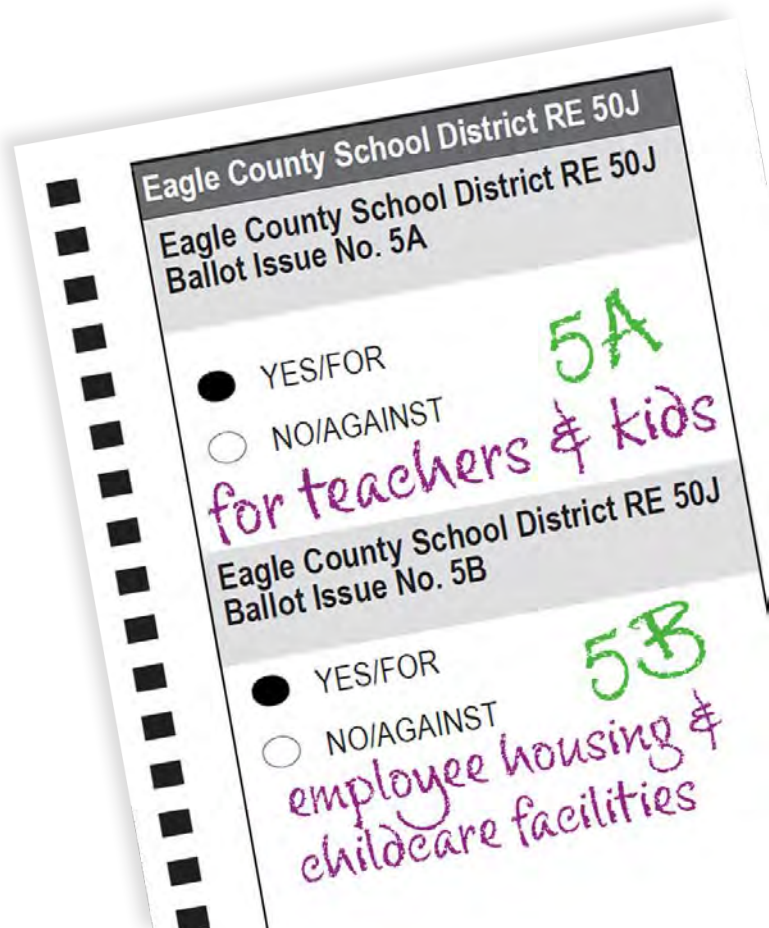
The last four decades have seen unprecedented progress in the science of mental illness. Yet, at a population level, despair, anguish and mortality are increasing for those with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and severe mood and anxiety disorders. How do we explain this gap between science and social impact? Join [Tom Insel, MD](#), author of "Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health" as he discusses the crisis of care, its five major contributing factors and solutions.

[REGISTER TO WATCH >](#)



**In August 2023**, the Eagle County School Board of Education voted to place two critical tax initiatives on the ballot: **5A**, a mill levy to invest in teachers, students, and curricula, and **5B**, focused on capital improvements.

The Education Foundation of Eagle County (EFEC) immediately pivoted its efforts to fundraising and managing the campaigns for both initiatives. Our team dedicated extensive resources and time to engage the community within the short timeframe leading up to the election. This intense outreach contributed to the successful passage of the capital improvements bond (5B), but unfortunately, the mill levy (5A), which would have supported vital STEM programming in schools, did not pass.





WILD WEST DAY DONATE



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## Supporting Our Local Classrooms

Every fall since 2012, principals and teachers are invited to apply for classroom funding for Equity, STEM, and Arts & Music. This grant program effectively empowers teachers to educate with an innovative and engaging curriculum that ensures successful outcomes for every student, regardless of their socioeconomic status.



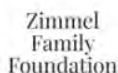
### IMPACT

To date, E.f(ec) has provided over \$500,000 in school staffing, primary literacy support, counseling services, AVID tutors, paraprofessional classroom support, STEM materials, teacher support services, technology, musical instruments, art supplies, and programs, and equitable access to the innovative curriculum.

“With E.f(ec)'s grant, our goal to enhance math interventions in elementary and middle school in both English and Spanish is possible!”

- Homestake Peak School Educator

## Thank You to Our 2024 Classroom Grant Sponsors!





[WILD WEST DAY](#)
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## OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Our sponsors make EFEC's mission possible. We are incredibly grateful to these amazing companies, organizations, and people for supporting EFEC and Eagle County students, teachers, and education.

### Our Amazing 2024 Partners

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*(in alphabetical order)*

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[EFEC.org](https://efec.org)  
[Classroom Grants Page](#)  
[Partner Recognition](#)

Posted on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)  
9/4/2024

Date	Platform	Event/Campaign
9/26/2024	Instagram	Classroom Grants
9/26/2024	Facebook	Classroom Grants
9/4/2024	Instagram	Classroom Grants
9/4/2024	Facebook	Classroom Grants
4/22/2024	Instagram	Project Funway
4/22/2024	Facebook	Project Funway
1/30/2024	Facebook	Project Funway
1/30/2024	Instagram	Project Funway
3/30/2023	Instagram	Project Funway
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2/28/2023	Instagram	Project Funway
2/28/2023	Facebook	Project Funway
2/24/2023	Instagram	Project Funway
2/24/2023	Facebook	Project Funway
2/16/2023	Instagram	Project Funway
2/16/2023	Facebook	Project Funway



Apply for a 2024-2025 School Year  
E.f(ec) Classroom Grant

Attention ECSD educators! It's time to apply for a 2024-2025 School Year EFEC Classroom grant!

Visit [EFEC.org/classroom-grants](https://EFEC.org/classroom-grants) to apply.

Every fall since 2012, principals and teachers are invited to apply for classroom funding for Equity, STEM, and Arts & Music. This grant program effectively empowers teachers to educate with an innovative and engaging curriculum that ensures successful outcomes for every student, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Let's see what a classroom grant can do for you!

We want to thank our very generous Classroom Grant sponsors for helping to make this program possible!

[@vailhealth](#) ...


Posted on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)  
9/26/2024



Before we announce our Classroom Grant awards during the week of September 30th, we want to give [Vail Health](#) a massive shoutout for their unwavering support of our local schools! For years, they've been powering our STEM classroom grants, helping to ignite curiosity and foster innovation in young minds across Eagle County. Because of their generosity, students are exploring, experimenting, and discovering new ways to solve real-world problems. Thank you, Vail Health, for being a true champion of education and our future leaders!

#VailHealth #STEMChampions #CommunityStrong #ThankYou

# Vail Health Email Acknowledgement

**From:** Wendy Rimel wendyr@efec.org   
**Subject:** EFEC's Project Funway 2023  
**Date:** February 3, 2023 at 11:27 AM  
**To:** Will Cook will.cook@vailheath.org



Hi Will,

I hope you, Sarah, and your daughters are enjoying a fantastic winter! I have a senior this year. Our lives are nuts with hockey, golf, school, college apps, and the upcoming baseball season!

## **Invite & Help**

I want to connect regarding EFEC and Project Funway, 2023. We hope you and Sarah can attend Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Dobson. Doors open at 5:30, and the show starts at 7:15 pm. Amanda Precourt mentioned inviting you to her table again. Tables have been selling like hotcakes, and I am laser-focused on the energy and success of our paddle raise. You mentioned at the end of the show last year that this is something with which you might help us.

## **Vail Health Sponsorship**

Christine Albertson confirmed a \$3,000 table sponsorship for Vail Health. Is there an opportunity for Vail Health to increase support? [Click here](#) and scroll down for sponsorship levels. We would love to see Vail Health at the \$10,000 Presenting level alongside Amanda, Blake Plumley/BluWater, and EpicPromise.

Berry Creek Middle School's exploratory class hosts an in-school Project Funway. Twelve-year-old Edgar Castanon Reveles, an English language learner, submitted a medical mask design. See attached. After winning his in-school competition, two friends joined him in designing mask fashion together to walk the official runway. Vail Health's increased sponsorship would support these kids and the six schools across our valley hosting in-school Project Funway. We could recognize Vail Health as the in-school Project Funway underwriter.

## **STEM Grant Recognition & Video Interview**

Made possible by Vail Health, EFEC gave classrooms STEM grants, including three, to elementary and middle schools of Homestake Peak School. To recognize Vail Health's investment and express the importance of STEM in our local public schools could we interview you for our 2023 pre-paddle raise ask video?

The interview and filming would take 20 minutes max. We can come to you or invite you to join us at HPS for a day of filming in February when we'll be interviewing the STEM teachers who received grants, Phil Qualman, and HPS's Principal, Stefanie Gallegos. The filming date at HPS has yet to be set.

## **Tools & Resources**

If you are up for hands-on support, I am standing by to provide whatever tools and resources are needed. This is [last year's pre-paddle raise video](#). All information on Project Funway and EFEC is at [ProjectFunway.org](#) and [efec.org](#), including our [Annual Report](#).

Thank you again for jumping in last year. Your gift and Vail Health's support make the difference in our teachers' and local public students' daily lives.

Also, I am looking forward to next Tuesday, February 7's presentation. Thank you for doing those.

*continued...*



*...continued from previous page*

Best Regards,  
Wendy

P.S. EFEC has a corps of paid "volunteers," primarily Hispanic grandmas, covering recess and lunch duty at four of ECSD's drastically understaffed elementary schools. Thus, giving planning time back to teachers and staff covering recess, lunch, and for each other — and employing hard-working women who mostly live in poverty. I believe you will love the incredible stories coming out of this program. We want to raise enough funds at Project Funway to continue the program through the end of this school year.



PRESENTED BY




**PROJECT FUNWAY**

f @ in y v

**DONATE** **SHOW PHOTOS**






Ef(ec) An Education Foundation of Eagle County Fundraiser

HOME EVENT INFO DESIGN STYLISTS JUDGES SPONSORS SPONSORSHIP WHY DONATE MEDIA & GALLERIES CONTACT

## 2024 SPONSORS


Our sponsors make Project Funway and EFEC's mission possible. We are incredibly grateful to these amazing companies, organizations, and people for supporting EFEC and Eagle County students, teachers, and education.

*(in sponsorship level order)*

		
		<p>Rebeca Hanrahan</p>

[ProjectFunway.org](https://ProjectFunway.org)  
[Sponsors Recognition Page](#)  
[Sponsorship Page](#)

Posted on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)  
4/22/2024

 **Education Foundation of Eagle County**  
Published by Wendy Brownell Rimel  
- April 22 -

Last week was a busy one for EFEC we got to see a terrific presentation @vailhealth Vail Valley Surgical Center of their Education Foundation of Eagle County #ProjectFunway 3rd place design! Thank you Vail Health's Vail Valley Surgical Center for your investment in EFEC's work to retain teachers and support Eagle County School District



Posted on [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)  
1/30/2024



EFEC is thrilled to announce that [@vailhealth](#) is one of our Project Funway Velvet sponsors this year, and we are so thankful for their many years of support!

Project Funway hits the Dobson Arena stage on Saturday, March 23rd! Get your tickets today!

[ProjectFunway.org](#)  
[efec.org](#)

[#ProjectFunwayImpact](#)  
[#vail](#) [#vailcolorado](#) [#vailevents](#)

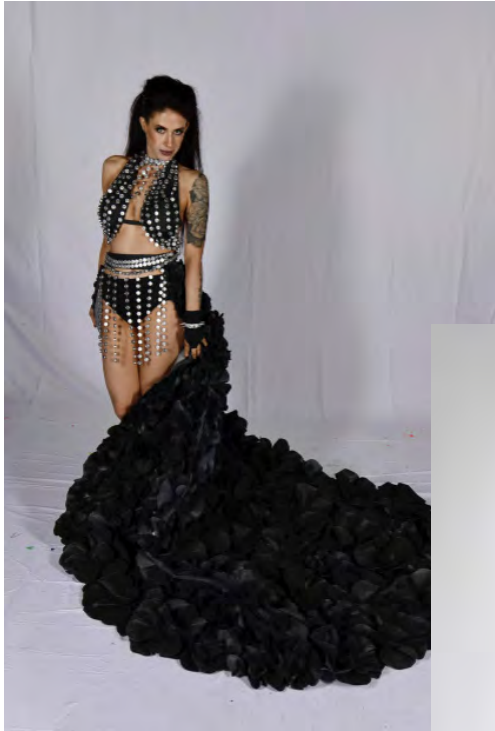
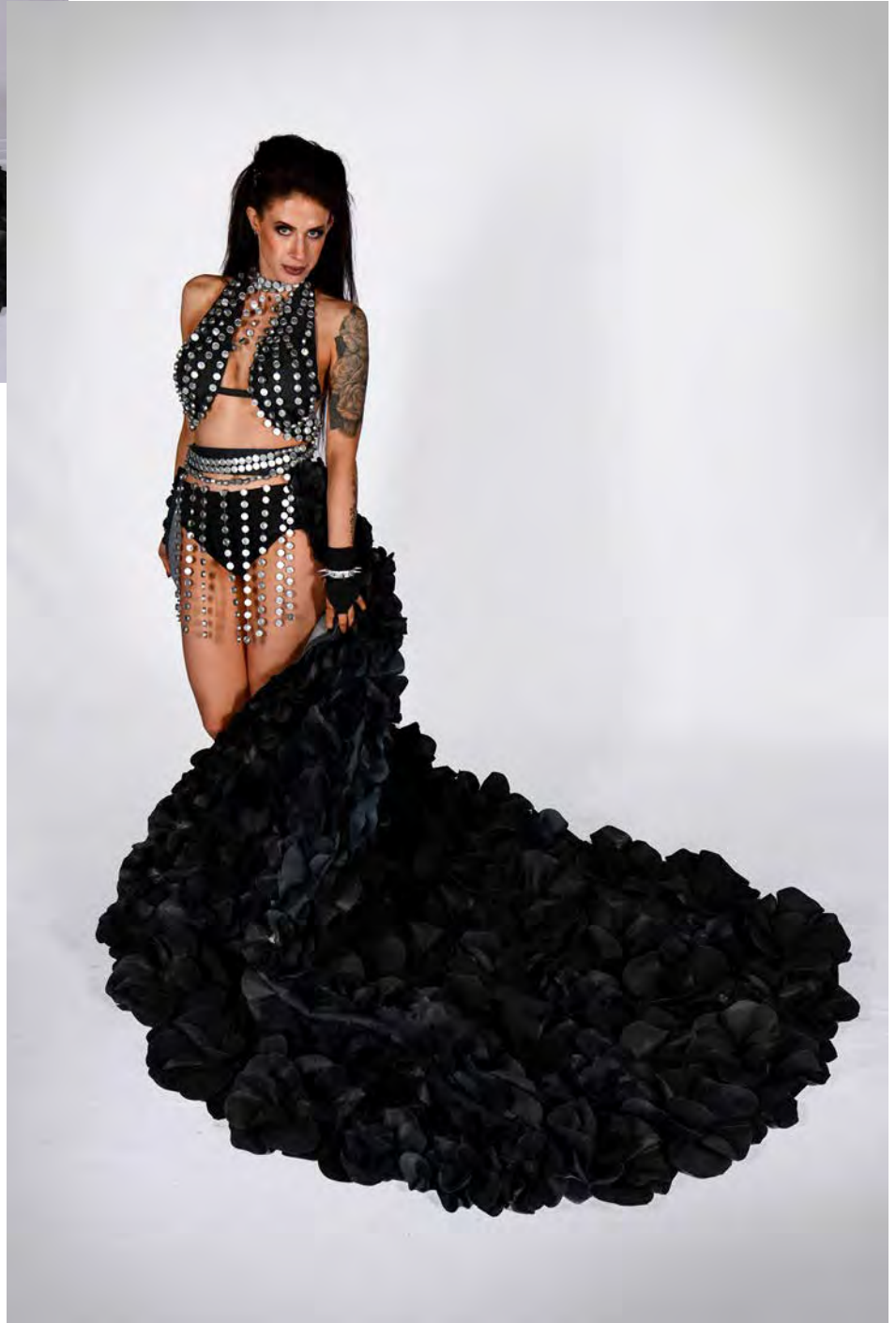


Photo resizing (to large 24 x 36-inch at 300 dpi size) and retouching for Kelly Dantas at Vail Health. (April 2024)



## This year, we're adding something a little special to our Classroom Grant announcements!

Every year, we send out email notifications to our classroom grant recipients, expressing our gratitude to you, our generous sponsor. We also recognize our sponsors on our classroom grants web page and in community-wide email blasts!

Beginning this year, each winner will also be featured in individual social media posts, which will include photos, a description of how the grant will be used, and acknowledgments of our sponsors like you, complete with social media tags.

We successfully initiated this approach over the summer with our Distinguished Teacher Scholarship Awards, and it received great feedback! We are excited to continue this trend with our Classroom Grants, so stay tuned for a series of tagged Facebook and Instagram posts this fall!

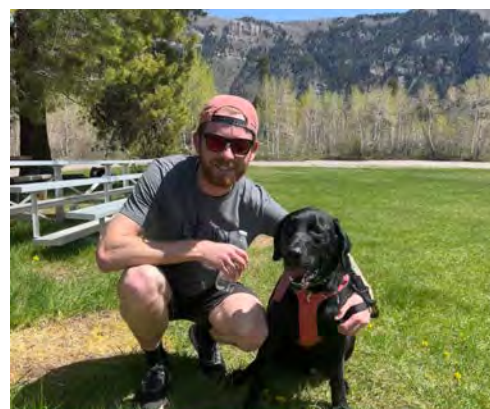
Check out our social pages from this summer to see more. Samples of the post images are below and click to follow them to a post!



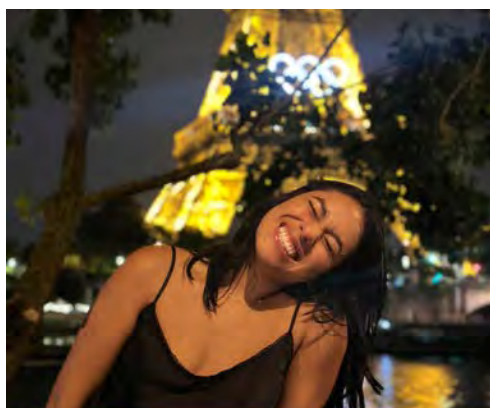
Congrats Saray! DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congrats Cindy! DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congrats Sean! DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



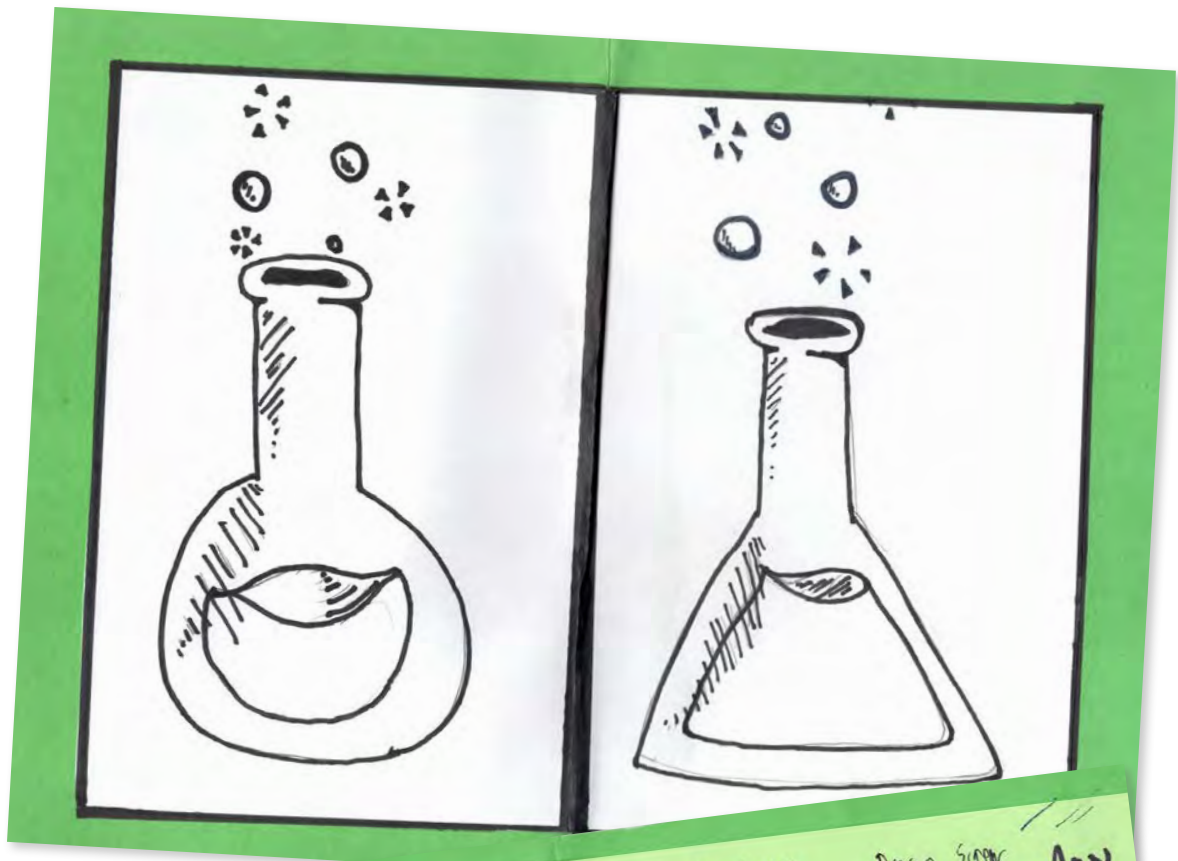
Congrats Karla! DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congrats Bret! DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congrats Celeste! DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**E·f(e·c)**

Dear E·f(e·c),  
 on behalf of the BMHS  
 Science Olympiad team we  
 thank you for your donation  
 and support of our club. It  
 means the world to us and  
 we aim to represent you well  
 at both our regional and state  
 tournaments!

Thank you so much!  
 -BMHS Sci Oly Captains:

Michael Thomas, Jack Whigg, Nick Danks

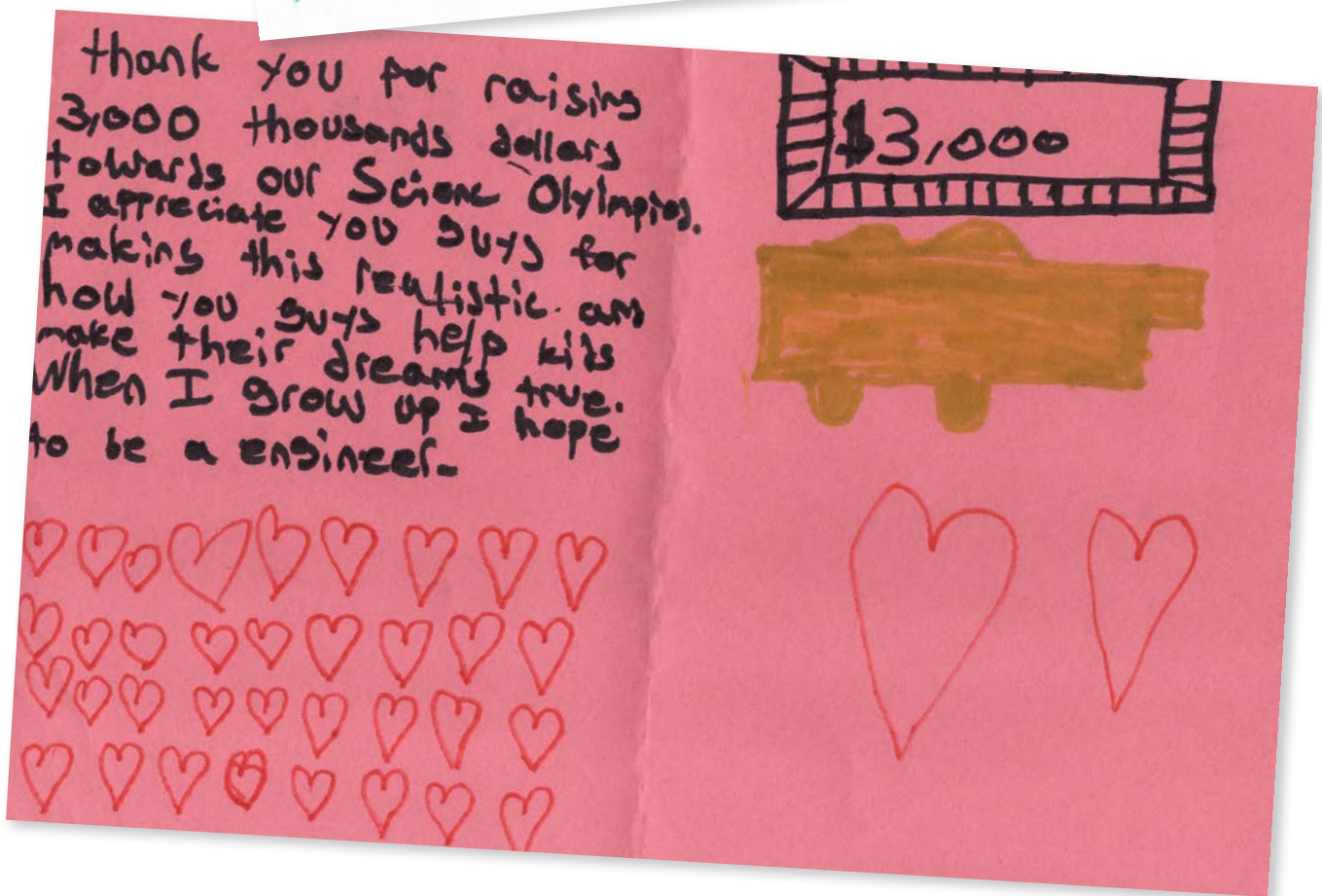
\*Snow Swisher\*  
 Jennifer Mejia  
 Mauricio Terrazas  
 Dman Soccer  
 Caleigh Douglas  
 Cadon McCann  
 Alexis  
 Carol Mendez  
 Thankyou!!!

Thank you so much  
 -BMHS Sci Oly Team

Thank you  
 Kevin  
 B. Hummel  
 Ted Matthews  
 Logan Daniels  
 Justus Figueroa  
 Lynn Zastrow  
 Chadwellness

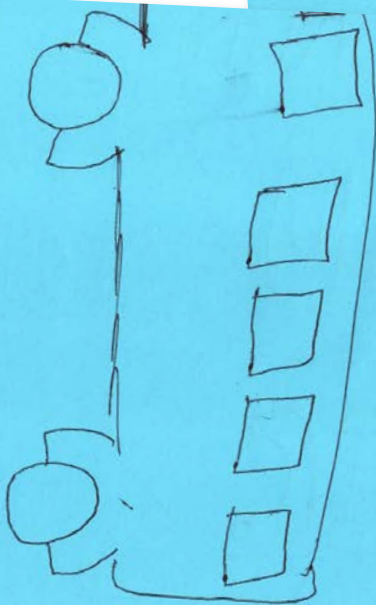
thank you!  
 -coco!

Thank You Cards from students benefitting from STEM grants



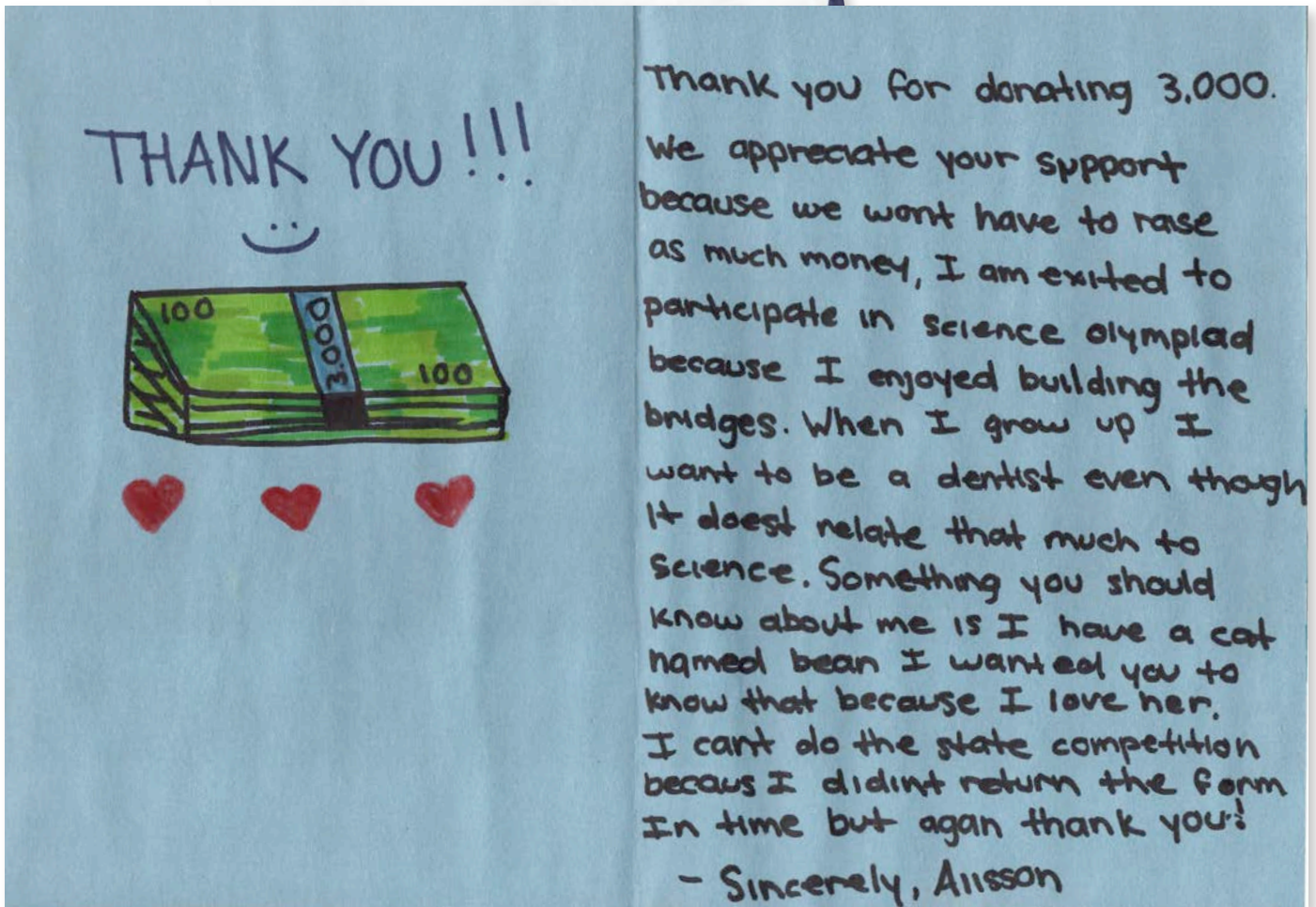


THANK  
YOU  
EFEC



Thank You for  
Grant us the busses  
so we can go to  
Science olympiad.  
I am a BCMS student  
that is working on  
Forestry, BPO Process Lab,  
and Cotebusters. My  
name is Iker. and  
thank you.

By: Iker

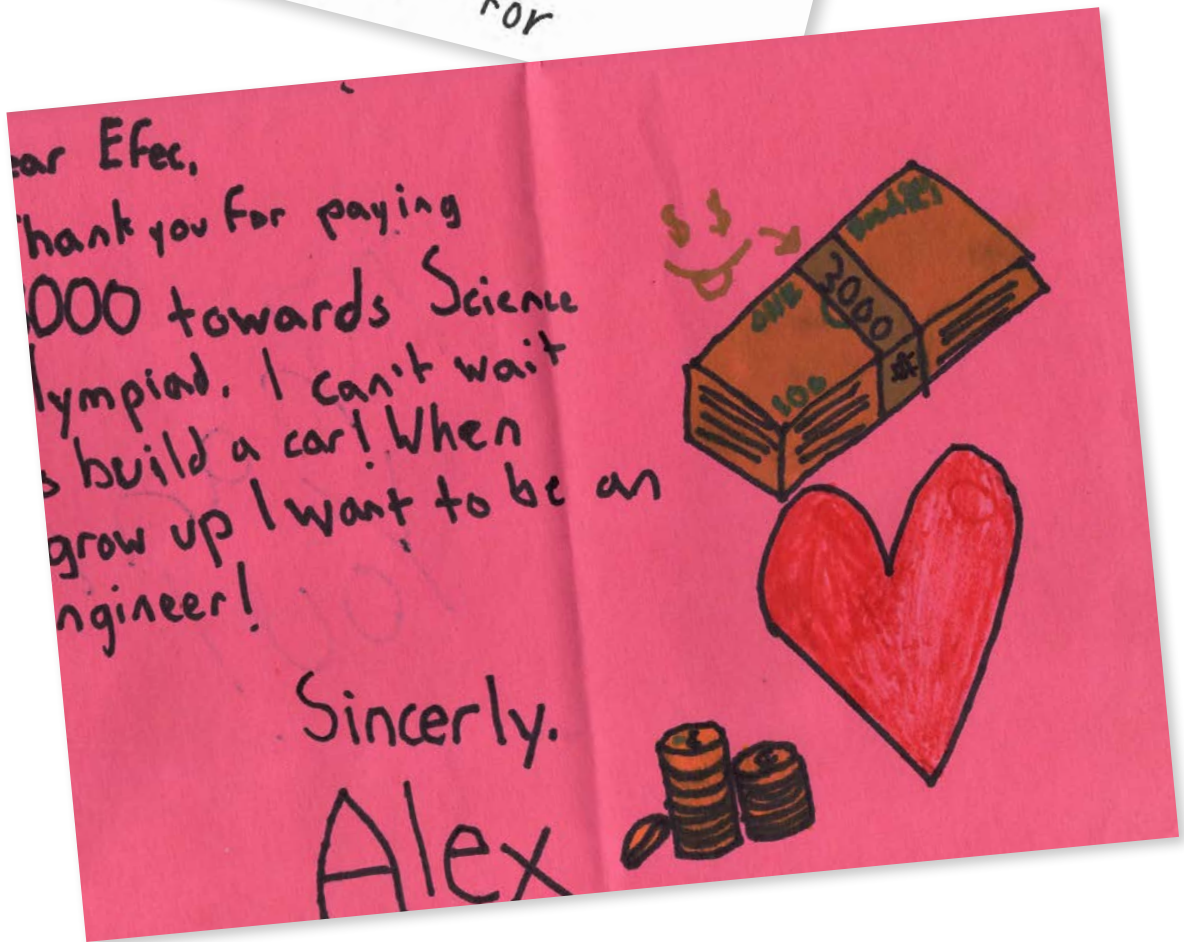




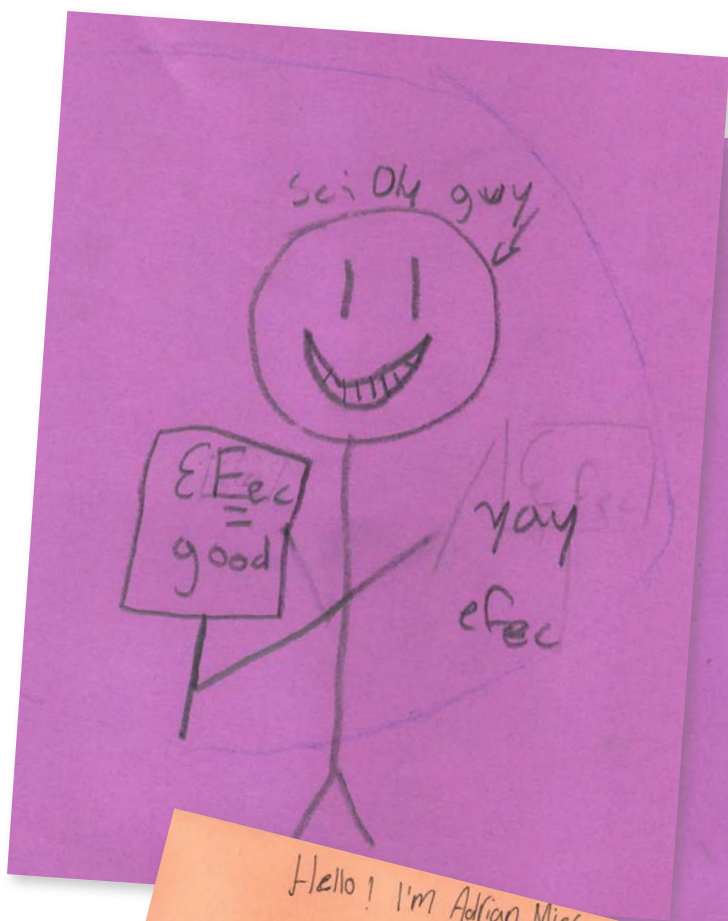
Thank you EFEC  
for the buses. My name  
is Josue and I've been working  
really hard on codebusters.  
From Josue



Thank You Cards from students benefitting from STEM grants



# Thank You Cards from students benefitting from STEM grants



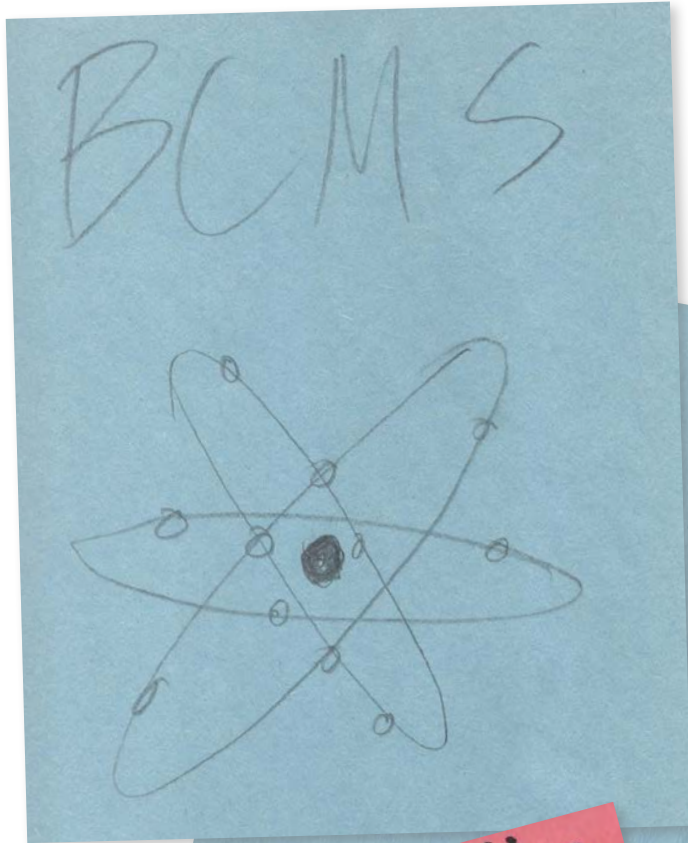
Thank you, Efec  
Thanks for donating an unreal amount of money to science olympiad. It's a great way to learn more about things you love, like space, life, geology. I personally love space and the solar system, and being able to go will be awesome and a great blessing for those who love science.

Max Carrasco

Hello! I'm Adrian Mier,  
I wanted to write this letter because I really appreciate the grant for the science olympiad bus.  
I'm really excited for science olympiad because it is a really good experience, it's also a good way to get scholarships which I'm looking forward to because college is a good opportunity for life in general.



Thank You Cards from students benefitting from STEM grants



Dear Lisa,  
Thank you for giving  
us a grant. I had  
fun last year  
and joined the  
Year.  
  
Sincerely,  
Steven Herrera

Thank you for donating  
3000 DOLLARS !!!  
How did you guys get the  
money?? But also thank  
you soooooo much!!!  
Sincerely Eric Flores

## Thank You for All Your Generous Support Through the Years! We Appreciate You!



### 2018-2019 School Year

\$25,000 for STEM  
\$5,000 Project Funway 2019 Sponsorship  
**\$30,000**

### 2021-2022 School Year

No STEM Funding  
\$3,000 Project Funway 2022 Sponsorship  
**\$3,000**

### 2019-2020 School Year

\$25,000 for STEM  
\$5,000 Project Funway 2020 Sponsorship  
**\$30,000**

### 2022-2023 School Year

\$16,000 for STEM  
\$3,000 Project Funway 2023 Sponsorship  
**\$19,000**

### 2020-2021 School Year

\$25,000 for STEM  
\$1,000 Wild West Day 2021 Booth Sponsorship  
**\$26,000**

### 2023-2024 School Year

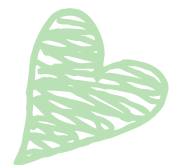
\$15,000 for STEM  
\$5,000 Project Funway 2024 Sponsorship  
**\$20,000**

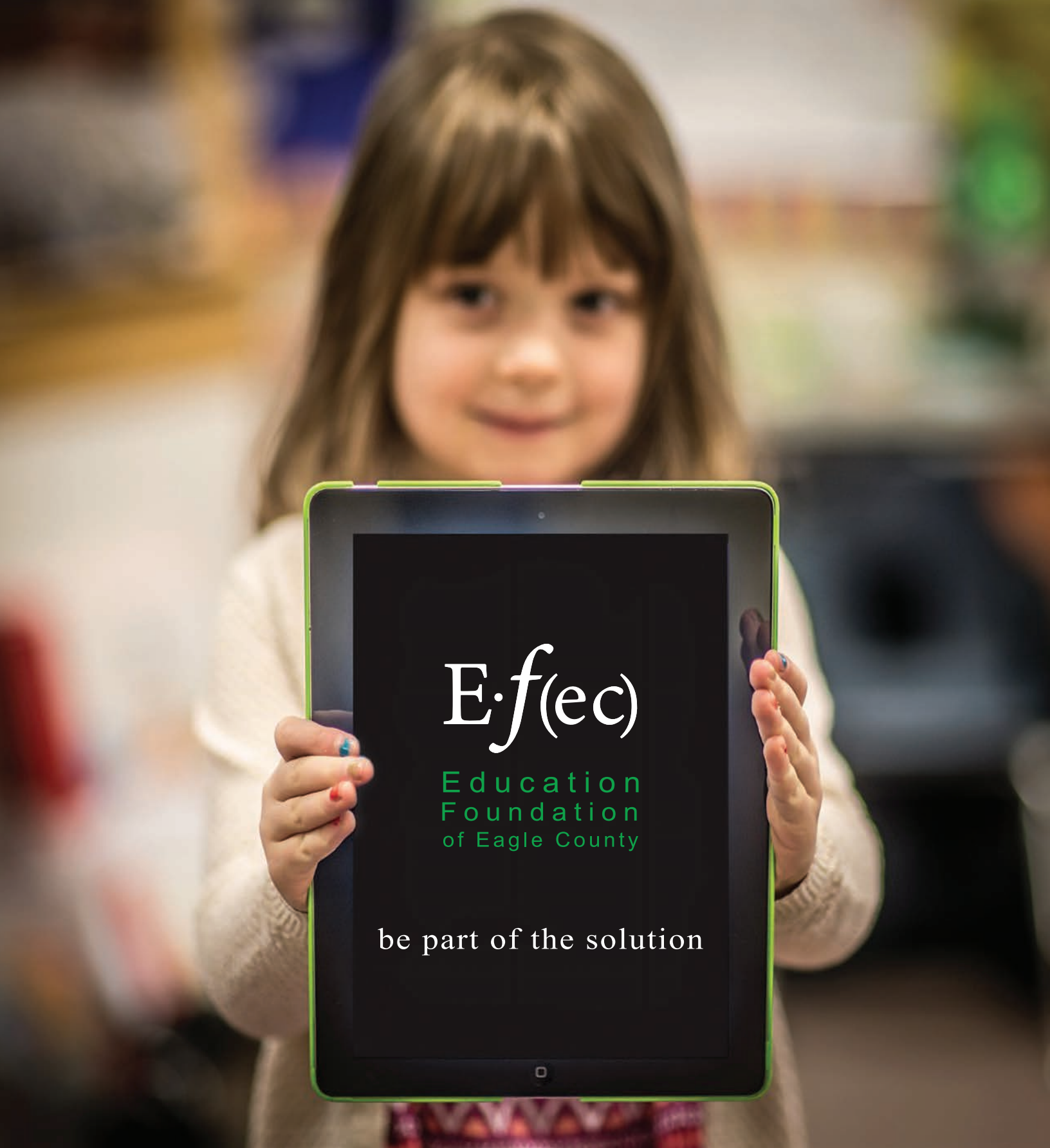


*We Invite You*

**to support EFEC's STEM grants  
this year and to be a premier  
sponsor of Project Funway 2025**

*Thank You!*





E·f(ec)

Education  
Foundation  
of Eagle County

be part of the solution

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Edwards, CO 81632

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