



**C-STEM**<sup>TM</sup>  
Everyone is an Artist and an Engineer!

# PRISMATIC INNOVATION

Honoring Legacy. Advancing the Future. Expanding What's Possible.



▶ **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

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"The magic of C-STEM is seeing a child's face light up when they are allowed to explore, develop solutions, and ultimately feel included where they may have otherwise been left behind. We are fortunate to be backed by a vibrant, diverse community of passionate supporters with whom we celebrate our impacts. They also understand the importance of celebrating history while embracing the future to build tomorrow's leaders. All our efforts are true collaborations, and the continued support of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, partner schools, students, and advocates makes it all possible."

**Ahmad Shaheed**  
Board Chairman





## THE EVOLUTION OF INNOVATION

One of the most significant, widespread changes in education over the past few decades has been the acceptance of technology and innovation. Many of us who are still in the workforce today remember a time when using tools like calculators, laptops, the Internet, or email were not allowed in the classroom. They were considered a method of cheating or unsafe.

Today, many years of research show us that **students learn best through hands-on activities**. Therefore, being able to access information quickly allows them to engage in more of these high-quality learning experiences. While students still need to verify sources and provide original work, **we now look at technological advances in the light of how they can help students learn better** as opposed to rejecting their use in education overall.

Today, this is a guiding light in our approach to STEM education. Whether it's artificial intelligence or underwater robotics, we embrace new technologies through a lens of the lessons we've learned throughout history, coupled with how innovations can enhance student experiences and better prepare them for the careers of tomorrow.

As we celebrate our progress in 2025, and look forward to exciting future developments, we will always honor and legacy and pursue possibility.

**Reagan Flowers, PhD**  
C-STEM Founder

# THE FOUNDATION OF OUR INNOVATION

Years before the United States launched national initiatives to support STEM, educator Dr. Flowers recognized the STEM education inequities between districts and schools, and even within individual classrooms. She founded **C-STEM Teacher and Student Support Services** in 2002 to serve traditionally underserved students in communications, science, technology, engineering, and math.




C-STEM has stepped up in the Houston area and beyond as the catalyst in providing equal access to STEM education, both inside and outside the classroom. We support teachers in delivering project-based learning that ignites curiosity and teaches Communications + STEM (C-STEM) skills to students historically underrepresented in STEM fields, specifically **students of color, girls, and impoverished students**. Our efforts have evolved over the years, shifting toward the greatest areas of need, and often expand to students across the nation and the educators who support them.

C-STEM approaches innovation through a prismatic lens. One that refracts the future of AI, technology, and STEM through the lived experiences, storied leadership, and enduring principles that have guided our work since our founding. As we embrace emerging technologies, we remain grounded in history, culture, and community, ensuring that progress is **inclusive, ethical, and transformative**.

## THROUGH THE PRISMATIC LENS: LEVERAGING CHANGE FOR GROWTH

What would life look like today without air travel or antibiotics? We understand the critical nature that STEM innovation plays in improving our everyday lives and its potential for careers that may not even exist yet. That's why **we embrace tools like AI to enhance STEM learning, not to replace its essential skills and principles**.

## 2025 REACH & IMPACT




**3,025**  
C-STEM Challenge competition student learning hours.



**280**  
C-STEM Showcase student learning hours.



**1,500**  
C-STEM Summer Camps student learning hours.



**4,805**  
Total STEM learning added through student hours.

# INNOVATION WITH INTENTION

C-STEM has embraced evolving technologies since its founding, integrating these elements into our curriculum, student projects, and competitions to keep teachers up-to-date and students prepared for the careers of the future. At the same time, **we ensure fundamental STEM principles and concepts remain the core of our efforts.** C-STEM leverages emerging innovations like AI to increase inclusivity instead of further marginalizing students who have already experienced learning gaps due to bias and lack of opportunity.

## COMPETITION FUELS COLLABORATION AND GROWTH

C-STEM Challenge Days are the culmination of months of **learning STEM concepts, putting them into action, applying teamwork and collaboration, and exploring the possibility of STEM careers.**

### 🏆 Sheldon ISD 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Challenge Day

In 2025, Sheldon Independent School District held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual C-STEM Challenge Day. Throughout the course of the district's partnership with C-STEM, participation has continued to grow, with student teams from across 10 Sheldon ISD campuses applying their knowledge in the latest competition. They competed in various categories, including robotics, innovation, sea turtle sculpture, and mosaic mural.

### 🚀 Windsor Village Elementary First Robotics Competition

We also welcomed a new partner, with Windsor Village Elementary hosting its first-ever C-STEM Robotics Competition. The event featured 5 teams with a total of 15 students from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.



## Through the Prismatic Lens: Launching an AI & Robotics Tour

C-STEM announced a new partnership with the H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust in 2025. A generous \$25,000 grant from the trust is the Presenting Sponsorship of NextGen Intelligence: Bringing AI and Robotics to Life. Launching during the 2025–2026 academic year, this dynamic event series will visit schools across Texas, introducing elementary, middle, and high school students to the transformative world of artificial intelligence and robotics.

We are endlessly grateful to H-E-B for helping us close opportunity gaps for historically underrepresented students by making cutting-edge STEM education accessible, engaging, relevant, and career-inspiring.



# CREATIVE EXPRESSION MEETS STEM

C-STEM provides comprehensive experiences that integrate **mosaic murals, sea turtle sculptures, film, photography, storytelling, and art** as gateways to technical literacy. Incorporating creative, tactile learning creates learning that resonates more deeply and lasts cognitively much longer than just reading about how things work. These projects also provide context on how STEM resonates in everyday life and potentially in future careers.



## 🏢 D.C. Partner School Explores Art, Communications, & STEM

The National STEM Honor Society at **Whittier Elementary School** in Washington, DC, engaged in unforgettable STEM experiences in 2025, including an exciting **field trip to the Maryland Science Center** and the chance to interview prominent STEM leaders. **Their efforts culminated with The 2025 C-STEM Challenge Showcase**, where the students presented and demonstrated the wealth of knowledge they'd gained throughout the year.

These incredible opportunities were made possible by **generous support from Dow**.

## Through the Prismatic Lens: Celebrating a Storied History

We were honored to announce the new C-STEM traveling exhibit, "Becoming to Empowering: Commemorating 400 Years of STEM" in 2025. The artwork featured in this exhibit is inspired by the creativity and ingenuity of PreK-12 students who have participated in C-STEM programming. Repurposing materials from more than two decades of hands-on STEM education, the exhibit is an immersive artistic experience that reflects the transformative power of STEM and the arts. We kicked off this effort with a community dialogue event in September 2025 and **the exhibit will run May - August 2026**.

Thank you to the **400 Years of African-American History Commission** for funding this effort.

# PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC MOBILITY

C-STEM's programs focus on closing learning gaps for students while they are in school, but our strategy reaches far beyond that as we design our curriculum and offerings. We focus on providing the real-world application and skill-building that students need to be ready for the workforce. This includes continually evolving to meet the changing needs of STEM careers.

## Helping Students Enter the Workforce with Valuable Experience

In a new, innovative summer internship program, five college students had the chance to develop plans for a "C-STEM Creative Hub," an innovation space serving Houston's historic Third Ward community.

Under the guidance of C-STEM board members, interns surveyed students, teachers, and business professionals, analyzing both the data and the office space to determine the most efficient and effective use plan. The plan will reconfigure the C-STEM office to include flexible learning spaces, creative zones, and rentable areas. In addition to building their resumes, the students directly **engaged in developing research, project management, and presentation skills.**



## BUILDING SKILLS THROUGH SPECIALIZED CAMPS

### **Booker T. Washington High School Partnership**

C-STEM brought hands-on STEM experiences to students across the Houston area through several camps throughout 2025.

We were honored to partner with Booker T. Washington High School to deliver the **Taliaferro Engineering Magnet Bridge Camp** for incoming 9th graders and rising 10th graders in July. Designed to spark curiosity and build academic confidence, the hands-on camp introduced students to STEM through a dynamic, project-based learning experience powered by C-STEM's Innovation & Robotics Prototype Toolkits.



## YMCA of Greater Houston Partnership

For the second consecutive summer, C-STEM also partnered with the **YMCA of Greater Houston** to deliver engaging, hands-on, project-based STEM learning experiences for K–8th grade campers at **Houston ISD Sunrise Centers**. The camps were held at the **Mission Milby** and **Baker Ripley Connect YMCA** Sunrise Center locations.

**220**

Campers Ages 5-13

**K-8**

Grade Levels

**2**

YMCA Locations



Engineering & Design



Technology For Musical Instruments



Chemical Reactions



Electric Circuits



## Through the Prismatic Lens: Fueling the Fire of Student Passion through Scholarships

Many elements make up the success we see in our students, including providing financial support to move to the next step when we are able. In 2025, we presented **STEMing the Tide** scholarships to six students planning to attend colleges and universities.

Thank you to **Comerica Bank STEMing the Tide** for helping make these students' dreams come true.

# COMMUNITY AS CO-CREATORS AND PARTNERS

The progress C-STEM has made in its more than 20 years is the result of students, educators, families, and partners shaping solutions together. We soar thanks to the feedback, expertise, support, and funding we receive. More than that, though, the commitment each and every individual of the C-STEM has to our shared mission helps us to continue to close learning gaps and provide opportunities for traditionally underserved students.

## Riding Into Opportunity

Thanks to a generous donation of bicycles and helmets by **Cycle Houston**, four young students were able to learn how something as simple as a bicycle can open doors to new adventures.

**Five Woods Realty** donated bike locks to the students, ensuring that more children have access to reliable transportation, independence, and, of course, fun!

C-STEM awarded the gifts to students from Lawson Academy and Blackshear Elementary School.

### 🏆 Partnership Rooted in Progress

A new partnership between C-STEM and W Johnson Consulting will **introduce students to the emerging possibilities of underwater robotics**. W Johnson Consulting, led by Founder and CEO William Johnson, and C-STEM are working together on a new C-STEM Training: **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)**. ROVs perform tasks in **underwater environments**.

Through our partnership, high school students in Title I Houston ISD schools will receive a full academic year of training, encompassing electromechanical fundamentals and an introduction to **ROV operation and mechanics**. The challenge will also introduce a new **direct employment pathway** for C-STEM students, offering certifications and college credit to high school seniors.



## Celebrating Commitment to STEM Programming

During the 13th Annual State of STEM Stakeholder Breakfast, we shared C-STEM's latest research on trends and updates in STEM education. We also saw the event as an opportunity to honor the educators who dedicate themselves to continually growing their own professional skills to deliver the highest level of education to their students, regardless of color, income level, or any other factor.

**Mark Thierry** received the **STEMing the Tide Award**, recognizing his extraordinary dedication, leadership, and excellence in public service. **Darrell Williams** was named the **C-STEM Community Champion Award Honoree**, recognizing his exceptional commitment to advancing STEM education and making a meaningful impact in the lives of students and educators.

C-STEM also presented **Master Teacher Awards** during the breakfast, honoring incredible teachers who inspire, guide, and challenge their students to think creatively and step outside the box. We honored four **amazing teachers** with a combined total of 30 years as C-STEM Coaches.



### Through the Prismatic Lens: Real-World, Relevant Topics

Each year, C-STEM centers its programming around a theme that provides students with opportunities to address real-world needs. The student's project solutions theme for 2025 was "Resiliency: Addressing the Heat Island Effect and Water Management." This allowed them to explore the ongoing global water crisis and how they might be part of making an impact now and in the future.

# LIST PARTNERS

## GOLD



## SILVER



## BRONZE



# 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

C-STEM remains committed to delivering impactful programs that equip students and educators with essential skills in communication, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we generated \$187,712 in operating revenue this past year.

Operating Revenue

**\$187,712**

Total Expenses

**\$184,577**

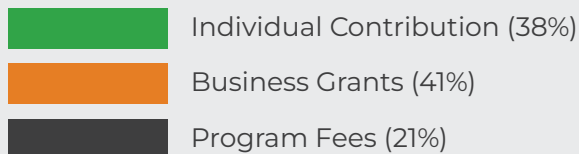
Surplus

**\$3,315**

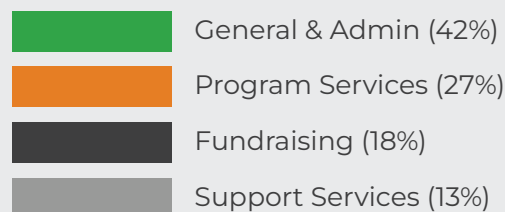
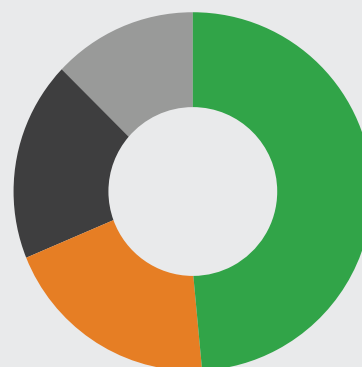
Our total expenses reached \$184,577, bringing us to a surplus of \$3,315. While this progress shows we have risen above our 2024 deficit, it still shows the true cost of providing high-quality programs, resources, and support to the schools and students we serve. We have worked diligently to manage costs efficiently, avoiding a shortfall in 2025, but we continue to realize the growing need for additional funding to sustain and expand our impact.

With your continued support, we can reach more students and ensure that every learner has access to the opportunities they deserve. Together, we are building a brighter future in C-STEM education.

## Revenue



## Expenses



# DONORS

## Every Donation Makes C-STEM Stronger

Every contribution — big or small — plays a vital role in shaping brighter futures for the students we serve. We are incredibly fortunate to have donors who give not only through financial and in-kind support, but also by sharing their time, expertise, and passion. This generosity fuels innovation, expands opportunities, and empowers the next generation.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

🏆 \$25,000+



🏆 \$10,000+



**Oriska Foundation**



🏆 \$5,000+



## \$1,000+

- ADSI
  - Agility Bank
  - Appropos' Resolutions, LLC
  - Jon & Lucy Bremond
  - City of Houston Combined Municipal Campaign
  - Cynthia Oliver Coleman, P.E.
  - Kelly Coleman
  - Dallas College
  - Elwood Fortune
  - The Hall Law Firm
  - The Katie Mae Gift Fund
  - McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP
  - Miles Insurance Agency
  - Jonathon Molis
  - Fheryl Prestage
  - Rice University - Center for African and African American Studies
  - San Jacinto College
  - Ahmad Shaheed
  - Smith & Company Architects
  - Novella Washington
  - Syalisa Winata
- 

## \$500+

- Access Data Supply, Inc.
  - Lucy Bremond
  - Tiffany Broussard
  - Riley Byron
  - Wilson Frazier
  - Dorota Grobler
  - Melanie Johnson
  - Gordon Mekeba
  - Perthelene Mosley
  - Martina Ogbonna
  - Peter Simien
  - Satterfield and Pontikes Construction, Inc.
  - Alesia Shealey
  - Texas Mutual Workers Compensation Insurance
  - Tulsa Welding School and Technology
  - U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
  - Gerald Womac
- 

## \$250+

- Tolu Akindede
- Charities Aid Foundation America
- Colleen Banks
- Anna Barba-Poindexter
- Kevin & Jeannine Braggs
- Toni Crawford
- Tejuana Edmond
- LaToya Hurley
- Bethew "Bert" Jennings III
- Kevin Jordan
- Adeola Kosoko
- Karen M. Lowe
- Brian Middleton
- Judy Moses
- Jerome Powell
- Byron L. Reily, CPA
- Omodele Segun
- Ekundayo Seton
- Gerald & Alesia Shealey
- Erika Thompson
- Kethia Webber
- Kenneth Whitmore
- Patrick and Jemila Winsey
- Albert Yemitan

# C-STEM TEAM & LEADERSHIP

## Executive Board Members



**Earl Cummings**  
Chairman Emeritus



**Ahmad Shaheed**  
Chairman



**Dr. Reagan Flowers**  
Treasurer



**Seun Harris**  
Director



**Dr. Joseph Seabrooks**  
Director



**Ellana Turner Kone**  
Director



**Kim Sullivan**  
Director

## ADVISORY BOARD

- Joi Beasley
- Lucy Bremond
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- Zawadi Bryant
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- LaQuita Cyprian
- Ruthie Esene
- Renee Logans
- Dr. Martina Ogbonna
- Dr. Letitia Franklin Ozoude
- Charles Samuel
- Miloni Shah (C-STEM Alum)
- Dr. Frazier Wilson
- Syalisa Winata
- Laolu Davies Yemitan



**Tiffany Simon**  
Program Director



**Liz Perry**  
Publications Manager



**Jawad Raza**  
Marketing & Tech Coordinator

## Through the Prismatic Lens: Standing at the Forefront of Innovation

C-STEM ensures it is engaged in the STEM community to continue offering its students and partner schools the best curriculum and experiences possible. For example, in 2025 C-STEM Founder Dr. Reagan Flowers spoke at two events for AfroTech, the premier black tech conference. She was even honored with the **2025 Black Houston(s) Pacesetter Award** by the Black Houston(s) Symposium.

# VOICES OF C-STEM

Enjoy just some of the feedback we received in 2025. Our students and educators say it better than we ever could!

The most rewarding part of partnering with C-STEM is to see eager Sheldon kiddos show up on competition day proud of their teamwork and ready to WIN!

**Anike Allen**  
Sheldon ISD STEM Coordinator



The program encourages teamwork, creativity, and perseverance as students design, build, and code solutions together. C-STEM has not only strengthened students' technical skills, but also their leadership abilities and love for STEM. Our students approach challenges with confidence and pride.

**Arissa Hatcher-Hayden, M.Ed.**  
Robotics Coach - Carroll Elementary

My experience with C-STEM helped strengthen my interest in STEM and reinforced critical thinking, teamwork, and analytical skills that I use daily in my career. I am currently a registered nurse in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) at Houston Methodist, where science, technology, and precise decision-making are essential. As an aspiring nurse anesthetist, I continue to build on the strong STEM foundation that C-STEM helped establish early in my academic journey.

**Jamal Lidale Sampson, (BSN, RN, CCRN)**  
Competition Participant (2010-2011)



C-STEM has significantly influenced both my work as Harris County Treasurer and my vision for the future. Exposure to C-STEM principles has deepened my appreciation for data-driven decision-making, efficiency, and innovation in public service. The integration of computing, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics has enabled me to approach financial management and resource allocation with a more analytical and forward-thinking mindset. As I continue serving the residents of Harris County, I hope to leverage these skills to implement more transparent processes, utilize technology for greater fiscal accountability, and inspire the next generation to pursue STEM careers that will strengthen our community's future.

**Dr. Carla L Wyatt (Harris County Treasurer)**  
Volunteer & Partner (2010 - Present)

For this project, I was project manager for three of the weeks so I really, I learned a lot about that, kind of handling a team, delegating and seeing what I could do but also allowing my team members to do a lot of work.

**Hans Winata**  
2025 Summer Intern





This project was really, really eye-opening for me. So, in school, we do project based learning but it can only really mimick the process when it comes to like designing and creating this like full fleshed out idea, and this was really good to see the process of how everything works.

**Greta Winata**  
2025 Summer Intern

It was new. I really thought we were going to do a lot of building and reorganizing, so I was really ready to do that. Once I realized it was a slow taking time process, I was able to fully understand and I was starting to take my time with things and just make sure to have a balance. I just tried to focus on the summer and also make sure that everything was ready for C-STEM.

**Cayden LaSalle**  
2025 Summer Intern



I think what I got most out of this whole process was learning how to work with people in a collaborative space and just like the process of making a successful business plan.

**Maddie Turner**  
2025 Summer Intern

**97%**  
Campers Learned Something New

**100%**  
Educators Agreed Training Helped Growth

An overwhelming **75% of educators** who completed the 2024-25 Integrated C-STEM Training Institute reported feeling delighted with their experience, reinforcing the impact and value of the C-STEM Challenge program in empowering teachers with innovative STEM education instructional strategies.

**97.2% of Campers** who completed the 2025 C-STEM summer camp in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Houston reported learning something new.

A full **100% of educators** who completed the 2024-25 Integrated C-STEM Training Institute reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that the training helped with their professional growth and development.

**More than 85% of C-STEM high school students** say they plan to attend college, compared to national average of 70%.

## Dr. Valencia Hall, Assistant Principal

“We needed a flexible curriculum that our teacher could adapt to introduce students to STEM in a creative, innovative way,” said Dr. Hall. “C-STEM toolkits elevate our students’ critical thinking through rigorous challenges, and we’re especially grateful that they come fully equipped with materials we otherwise couldn’t afford—this has already made a meaningful impact on our campus.”



# BUILD TOMORROW'S STEM LEADERS

- 👤 Make an impact by supporting C-STEM's mission!
- 🎓 Sponsor training for teachers and student toolkits.
- 👤 Sponsor a C-STEM after-school or ancillary instructor.
- 📅 Volunteer to help with a C-STEM event.
- 👤 Become a C-STEM Executive or Advisory Board Member.
- 🔗 Share our posts on social media.





CSTEM



SCAN  
ME 

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