

Dart FoundationSM



2015 Annual Report

History

The Dart Foundation is a private family foundation established in 1984 by William A. and Claire T. Dart. Headquartered in Mason, the Mid-Michigan area has long been a focal point of Dart Foundation philanthropy. Each year grants are also awarded in other areas of the United States and internationally.

Mission

The mission of the Dart Foundation is to advance and encourage youth education, primarily in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We also support projects that strengthen and improve the quality of life in numerous identified communities.

Directors & Officers

Claire T. Dart
Kenneth B. Dart
Robert C. Dart
Ariane M. Dart
James D. Lammers

Contact Us

500 Hogsback Road
Mason, Michigan 48854
dartfoundation@dart.biz
www.dartfoundation.org



Manager's Message:

Mission Matters

In the corporate world, organizations measure success by maximizing profits and enhancing shareholder value. Nonprofits, however, look to their missions as the benchmark.

Here at the Dart Foundation, we are mindfully mission based and deeply committed to the core philanthropic principles established in 1984 by our founders William A. and Claire T. Dart in Mason, Michigan.

This year's Annual Report is dedicated to demonstrating how mission matters at the Dart Foundation. You'll read about our support of programs around the nation that align with our mission and enhance the lives of thousands of people each year. We are honored to be part of the work of these organizations and excited to share with you our collective stories.

Emily Matthews
Dart Foundation Manager



Red Oak High School, Red Oak, TX

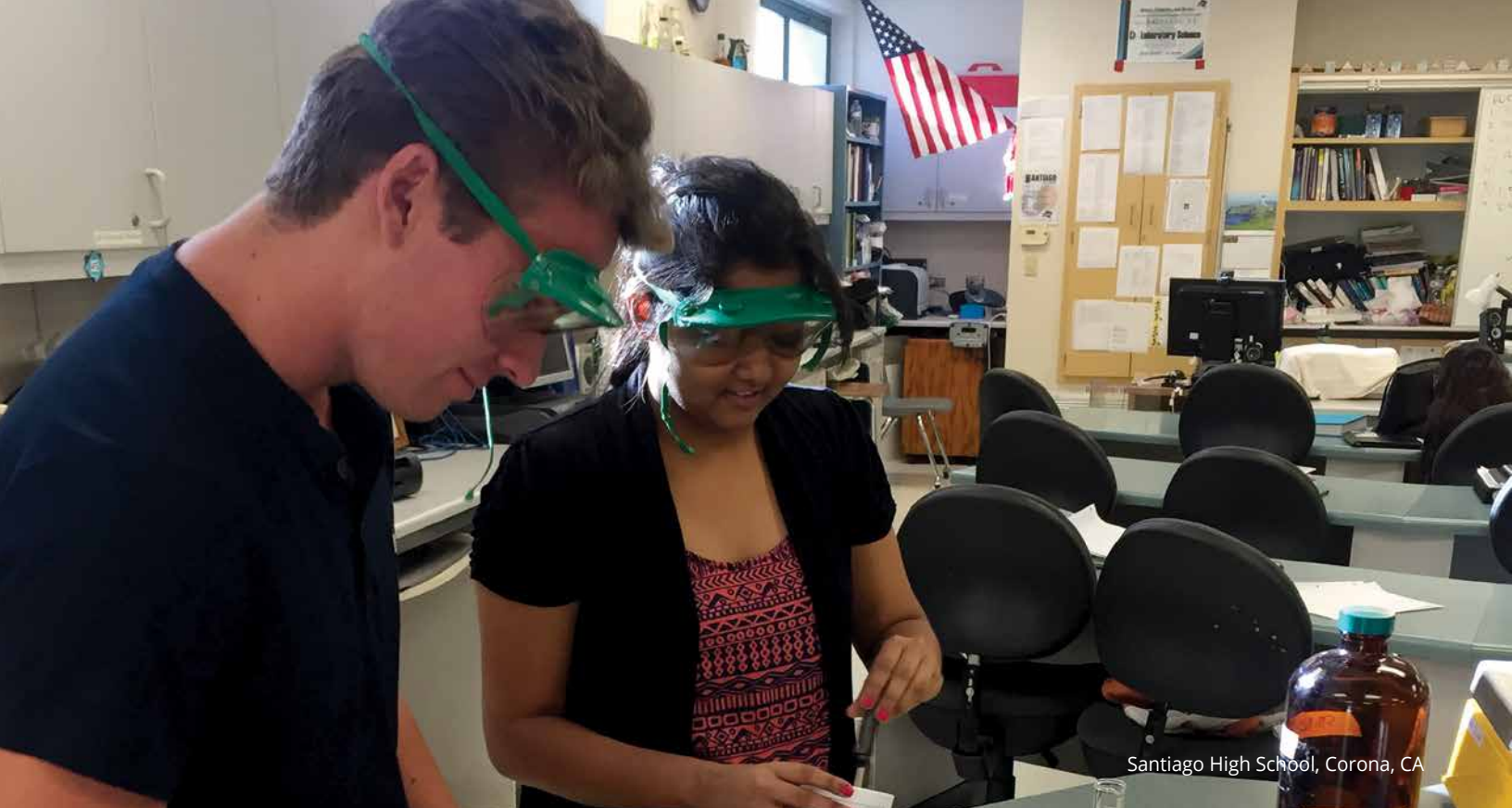
Foundation Expands Project Lead the Way Nationwide

Much like W.A. Dart expanded Dart Container Corporation by opening facilities nationwide, the Dart Foundation is endeavoring to introduce a new engineering curriculum in Dart giving communities across the country. Through fiscal year 2015, **the Dart Foundation has committed \$540,000 since 2009 to help implement Project Lead The Way's (PLTW) Pathway to Engineering curriculum in 14 high schools:**

- Dansville High School
Dansville, MI
- Ennis High School
Ennis, TX
- Heritage High School
Conyers, GA
- Jurupa Valley High School
Jurupa Valley, CA
- Miller Grove High School
Lithonia, GA
- Oak Lawn High School
Oak Lawn, IL
- Okemos High School
Okemos, MI
- Pequea Valley High School
Kinzers, PA
- Red Oak High School
Red Oak, TX
- Riverview High School
Sarasota, FL
- Ruben Ayala High School
Chino Hills, CA
- Urbana High School
Urbana, IL
- Warwick High School
Lititz, PA
- Williamston High School
Williamston, MI

Pathway to Engineering engages students in open-ended problem solving by applying the engineering design process to real-world problems. Students are exposed to a wide variety of engineering disciplines through the investigation of mechatronics, aerodynamics, sustainable circuit design and manufacturing. Increasingly, colleges and universities are recognizing the merit of PLTW by granting preferred enrollment and/or college credit to students who have participated in the program.

In 2015, the Dart Foundation announced a new grant competition to implement PLTW in up to eight additional high schools. *"The Dart Foundation is a critical partner in the effort to prepare more students for the jobs of the global economy,"* said PLTW President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Vince Bertram. *"Every student in America deserves access to rigorous, project-based STEM education, and we are extremely grateful to the Dart Foundation for making it available to more students."* ■



Santiago High School, Corona, CA

Technology Helps California Students Achieve State Science Requirements

Santiago High School chemistry teacher Dr. Branton Lachman in Corona, California, recently identified a way to use technology to help his students prepare for and master California's Next Generation Science Standards. **Using the proceeds from a Dart Foundation grant, the school developed, piloted and refined the College Readiness Chemistry Module, a technology-driven instruction tool that contains lectures, resource materials and individual assessment capabilities.**

Designed to cultivate strategic thinking, time management and resilience, the College Readiness Chemistry Module helps student create the skills needed for success inside and outside the classroom. It is also aimed at encouraging more students to pursue STEM-related coursework and career paths.

Using school-provided mobile devices—purchased with Dart Foundation funds—students can easily access the module and watch pre-recorded lectures, allowing for more efficient classroom time and more personalized instruction. For struggling students, the module provides additional resources and opportunities for frequent reinforcement of curriculum and re-assessment of core competencies. ■

The school is already seeing positive outcomes:

12.3% increase in baseline scores.

15.8% more students selecting chemistry for the physical science graduation requirement.

16.7% increase in students selecting additional chemistry and other STEM coursework.



Measurement Devices Aid STEM Learning in Pennsylvania

At the core of the Dart Foundation's mission is the promotion and encouragement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, which recently led the way for a grant to Warwick High School in Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Our support enabled the purchase of several cutting-edge measurement technology tools called probes. Students used these devices, which aid in measuring and analyzing data in the classroom, for their individual science fair projects in fall 2015.

According to chemistry teacher Laurel Hess, these probes allow students to achieve more precise results in a safer manner. The Dart Foundation grant provided for the purchase of a variety of probes that perform a broad range of functions. One probe, for instance, measures the concentration of a substance in a solution, while others measure magnetic fields, sense ethanol gas or test the purity of a chemical.

Given the wide use of the equipment, student Anna Weaver used the new SpectroVis probe in her project, titled "Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles," while classmate Katie Oberholzer used a conductivity pole probe in her study, "The Effect of Electricity on Ghost Shrimp."

"Students are using these probes in a variety of real-life applications," said teacher Laura Hess. "They are getting experience using cutting-edge technology to collect data in a reliable, convenient and safe manner. By interfacing with software on their laptops, the probes also generate real-time graphs to help students analyze the data they have collected. All students have their own individual lab that they are working on. No two students are solving the same problem." ■



Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI

Helping a Community College Manufacture Excellence

Consistent with the Dart Foundation’s mission to encourage educational advancement, our trustees recently partnered with the Lansing Community College (LCC) Foundation on a five-year challenge grant to fund the establishment of the LCC Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

The project, which provides up to \$100,000 in matching funds per year for five years—with a potential total gift of \$500,000—has three aims:

- Create opportunities for continuing education and career progression for those seeking technical careers.
- Produce skilled technicians that local employers need to compete in the global marketplace.
- Strengthen the community and improve the economic landscape by increasing the number of people who have access to rewarding, well-paying jobs.

While LCC currently offers coursework, certificates and degrees in the skilled trades, the Center for Manufacturing Excellence will expand and enhance its existing offerings through this special project. The Center for Manufacturing Excellence will be a single point of entry and serve as the common brand for all initiatives related to manufacturing at LCC.

This includes traditional certificate and degree programs in manufacturing, welding and electrical technologies, as well as apprenticeships, corporate training and several grant initiatives, including the Michigan Collaboration for Advanced Manufacturing and Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Collaboration.

“Increasing Michigan’s talent pool for these highly marketable skills will benefit our state’s economy and set students on a course for fulfilling, in-demand professions,” said Dart Foundation Vice President Jim Lammers. ■

2015 By The Numbers

Grants Awarded

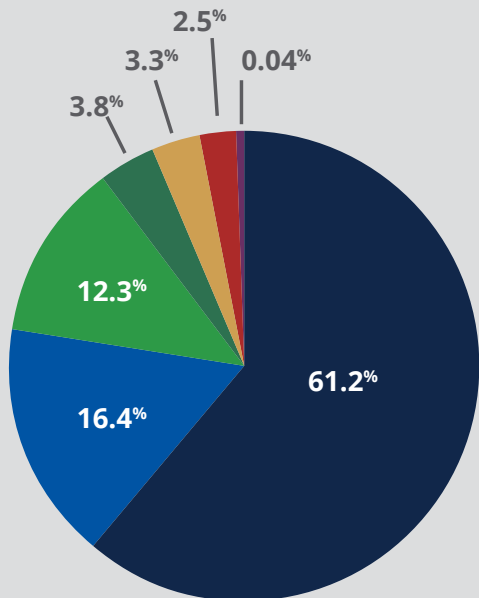
269

This year the Dart Foundation distributed 269 grants to nonprofits, schools and other tax-qualified organizations.

Value of Grants

\$2.3M+

These grants totaled more than \$2.3 million nationwide. From funding weekend backpack programs for hungry schoolchildren in Thomaston, Georgia, to supporting a robotics laboratory in Rochester, Washington, our grants are helping improve the quality of life in numerous giving communities nationwide.



Funds Granted by Category

Education

175 Grants Totaling
\$1,438,247

Human/Community Services

65 Grants Totaling
\$384,330

Health

11 Grants Totaling
\$289,500

Disaster/Emergency Relief

3 Grants Totaling
\$90,000

Arts & Culture

8 Grants Totaling
\$78,500

Environment

5 Grants Totaling
\$58,500

Other

2 Grants Totaling
\$10,000

A History of Giving

Since we began making grants in 1984, the Dart Foundation has disbursed more than \$63.4 million through 3,258 different grants. Those charitable dollars continue to improve communities for years to come because of our mission-based funding focus on the purchase of tangible items such as museum exhibits and laboratory equipment.

Amount
Disbursed

\$63.4M

Total Number of
Grants Awarded

3,258

Please visit our website at www.dartfoundation.org for a complete list of our 2015 grants and to learn more about the great work being done by the Dart Foundation.



500 Hogsback Road, Mason, Michigan 48854 · dartfoundation@dart.biz · www.dartfoundation.org