



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The STEM Connection Receives Multi-Year Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant to Strengthen Connections to STEM in Nature for Youth in Indiana

(Indianapolis, Indiana - January 2024) - A \$280,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., to be utilized over three years, supporting the implementation of The STEM Connection's (TSC's) new strategic plan, *TSC 2026*. The plan guides TSC into a future of bright possibilities and multiplying impact on youth in STEM over the next three years and beyond.

"TSC is grateful to be recognized by Lilly Endowment Inc. as an organization that is ready and able to take on the Strengthening Youth in Indiana initiative," said Vera Vander Kooy, Executive Director of TSC. "We believe every child deserves a chance to experience STEM in nature. This funding provides access for more children to engage in hands-on STEM and helps TSC cultivate deeper roots for youth as they make connections that will impact their future."

Almost ten years after sparking interest in STEM during the first summer camp in 2014, more than 6,000 lives are touched yearly at TSC. We appreciate the support from all our partners, the relationships with schools in our neighborhood, the passionate staff connecting youth with STEM, and the unique location at Moore Road Farm.

The grant will support several key priorities outlined in *TSC 2026*, including:

- Providing high-impact experiences for all youth
- Building an engaged partner network of like-minded organizations
- Expanding capacity and assuring operational sustainability

In addition, the STEM Future Leader program will be committed to strengthening, experimenting, and expanding by investing in leadership development and career exploration opportunities for middle and high school youth as they pursue unique areas of interest and inquiry in STEM.

TSC is passionate about coming alongside those who are underrepresented in STEM careers and connecting youth to future opportunities in STEM or STEM-related fields through out-of-school programming. In all experiences, we seek to ensure everyone



has a sense of belonging. TSC's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility guides our approach to programming and partnerships.

With the support of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s grant, TSC will increase our impact by engaging youth in STEM principles through accessible, nature-related experiences. We hope that these experiences will fuel dreams and inspire futures in STEM.

To learn more about The STEM Connection or make a donation, visit our website at: <http://thestemconnection.org/>

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