



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

WINTER 2024

FUELING THE FUTURE WITH STEAM

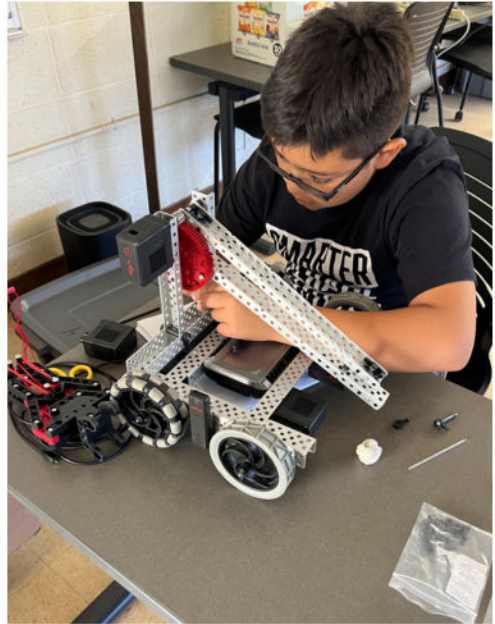


Adams Elementary students explore STEAM with teacher Sean Federbusch.

STEAM PILOT
TEACHER GRANTS
KEEP THE BEAT

SBEF FUELS SB UNIFIED STEAM PILOT PROGRAM

The Santa Barbara Education Foundation is proudly advancing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education within the Santa Barbara Unified School District this year with an investment of \$11,500 to launch a transformative STEAM pilot program led by the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy (DPEA).



DPEA advances STEAM learning for students as an umbrella entity by delivering top tier learning experiences to Santa Barbara Unified students and staff. In addition to the operation of the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy, the group facilitates professional development, creates curriculum, organizes enriching field trips, and crafts museum-quality educational experiences primarily led by students.

Through developing a new innovative STEAM curriculum, DPEA will help provide high-quality experiences for more than 1,000 students across nine elementary schools in the district. This collaboration aims to bring equity and sustainability to Santa

Barbara Unified's STEAM education. Two schools currently lack a STEAM program, and this initiative seeks to formalize the curriculum, providing equal access and training opportunities for teachers.

The pilot program, led by seven dedicated elementary Santa Barbara Unified STEAM teachers, is set to commence during this school year. The projects will incorporate the district's new English Language Arts curriculum, Wit & Wisdom, and will be tested in classrooms with feedback from students, teachers, and parents.

Students in grades 1-3 will discover the world of computer science through Sphero indi robots. While fourth-grade students investigate scientific matters of the heart by crafting pumps and stethoscopes to record heartbeats for a unique song. Complementing this, fifth-grade students will explore space and star systems, with students assembling LED-lit constellations integrated into AI-generated graphics.

Adam Elementary Design Center teacher Sean Federbusch shared, "The generous Santa Barbara Education Foundation grant marks a transformative moment for STEAM education in our district. This financial support fuels our ambitious pilot program and ignites a collaborative spirit among educators, students, and the community."

SBEF Executive Director Pedro Paz added, "We are proud to be part of this initiative that not only enhances STEAM education but also embodies our commitment to fostering innovation and equal access to quality learning experiences for all students in the Santa Barbara Unified School District."

KEEP THE BEAT CONTINUES TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR MUSIC

Once again, **99.9 KTYD** is teaming up with the Santa Barbara Education Foundation to strengthen music education in our schools with the Keep the Beat Instrument Drive.

The month-long radio event and fundraiser features interviews and performances by current Santa Barbara Unified music students, teachers, and professional musicians who found their love of music in public school music programs.

Community partners **Nick Rail Music** (2801 De La Vina St, Santa Barbara), **Raymond Music** (7320 Hollister Ave #6, Goleta), and **Jersey Mike's** (163 N Fairview Ave, Goleta) will accept instrument donations throughout February. SBEF will also host in-person instrument drop-off events at selected school sites from 10 am to 1 pm on Fridays. The Instrument Drive will wrap up with a celebration at **The Red Piano** from 5 to 7 pm on Thursday, February 29. Please join us!

For more details and to donate funds or instruments, please visit **KeepTheBeatSB.org**.



Music teacher Stephen Hughes with a student Jazz Trio from La Colina Junior High School.



KEEP THE BEAT INSTRUMENT DRIVE

WITH **99.9 KTYD**
Santa Barbara

FEBRUARY 2024

**29 DAYS OF LOVE
FOR OUR STUDENTS**

**YOU CAN KEEP THE
BEAT FOR STUDENTS!**



SBEF will team up with 99.9 KTYD for the entire month of February for the Keep the Beat Instrument Drive, an on-air fundraiser and celebration for SB Unified's aspiring musicians.

To donate an instrument or funds, visit KeepTheBeatSB.org.

OVER \$200,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO SB UNIFIED TEACHERS

The annual Teacher Grant program by the Santa Barbara Education Foundation (SBEF) awarded a record-breaking \$200,000 in grants to Santa Barbara Unified teachers in an awards ceremony. Since 2018, the program has flourished, awarding an impressive 387 grants totaling over \$675,000. This year's funds will go to 83 educators across 21 schools in the Santa Barbara Unified School District to fund various projects promoting innovative teaching ranging from 3-D printers to theater performance camps.

Also new this year is a \$10,000 tech-focused STEAM grant awarded to a single school site. The first \$10,000 grant was given to the Computer Science Academy at Santa Barbara High School to aid its mission to expose students to computer science and demonstrate its relevance to their academic and career interests.

Former Board President Joni Meisel saw the origins of this impactful giving in 1985 and shared her unique perspective on



SBEF Teacher Grants Committee Chair
Victoria Juarez

show how far the Teacher Grants program has come. During her speech at the Teacher Grants Award ceremony, she recounted the program's beginnings, which started by asking local businesses for donations to fund two grants of \$250 each. "You take this mission beyond our expectations for fundraising," said Meisel, "and you have an impact beyond our wildest dreams."

"I am immensely proud that during the time I have been here, we have been able to see our Teacher Grants double in the total amount awarded," shared SBEF Executive Director Pedro Paz. "We are grateful for the support of our community that has provided teachers an opportunity to impact their students."

This year's successful grant program is made possible by the generosity of donors, including The Gainey Foundation, Google.org, The John C. Mithun Foundation, and the Gretler Foundation. SBEF would also like to thank its award ceremony event sponsors, Whole Foods and Lazy Acres Natural Market, for their invaluable support.



SBEF Executive Director Pedro Paz presents at the Teacher Grants celebration.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

PEAC WINS GOLDEN BELL AWARD

SB Unified's PEAC (Program for Effective Access to College) Program won the Golden Bell Award 2023 for excellence in supporting first-generation college-bound students and closing opportunity gaps. Launched 12 years ago, PEAC provides academic support, mentoring, and unique career pathways. SBEF is proud to serve as the fiscal sponsor for PEAC.



MISSION SCHOLARS NAMED LOCAL HEROES

Congratulations to Cassie Lancaster, Kim Phillips, and Katie Kinsella of Mission Scholars for being named one of the Independent's 2023 Local Heroes! Five years ago, this trio envisioned a program to transform the lives of Santa Barbara students through academic advising, mentorship, and college admissions counseling. SBEF is proud to serve as the fiscal sponsor for Mission Scholars.



Mission Scholars' Cassie Lancaster, Kim Phillips, and Katie Kinsella

REMEMBERING MARGIE YAHYAVI

The passing of Margie Yahyavi on January 28th has left a profound void in our hearts and the community she tirelessly served. Although she retired as Executive Director in 2022, she was still an integral part of the SBEF family and often still attended our events. Her unwavering dedication to education and transformative leadership have left a lasting mark on the landscape of public education in Santa Barbara.



Margie's journey with SBEF began in 2010 when she embraced the role of the organization's only part-time employee with an annual budget of \$300,000. Over the years, her passion and commitment propelled SBEF to unprecedented heights, with a growing team, an annual budget of \$2.5 million, and a portfolio of ten signature programs and 14 fiscally sponsored programs providing essential services to Santa Barbara students.

Her vision extended beyond the confines of SBEF, creating a collaborative spirit that uplifted the entire educational community. Margie's strategic efforts secured funding for literacy intervention programs, initiated grants for teachers, and raised emergency funds to help students and families bridge the digital divide during the challenging times of the pandemic.

In her own words, Margie expressed, "I've loved every minute of working with this organization, the program directors, the donors, the community, all of it." Her genuine appreciation for people and her profound understanding of the value of investing in education was the cornerstone of her leadership.

As we bid a fond farewell to Margie Yahyavi, we celebrate a life dedicated to illuminating the path of education, leaving behind a beacon of light that will continue to inspire future generations.





2024 HOPE AWARDS



SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

5:30 - 8 P.M.

Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Honoring Geoff Green & 99.9 KTYD



Join us for an evening of student performances and inspired cuisine and beverages from local restaurants as we honor our local heroes of public education and raise funds for our signature Teacher Grants program.

Tickets and event details are available at
sbefoundation.org/hope-awards



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**JOIN US
FOR THE
HOPE AWARDS
ON APRIL 25!**