



Hyatt @ Lake Tahoe donates \$50,000 to the Incline Education Fund's STEP Up for STEM Campaign. Andrew DeLapp, DOO, Hyatt, Dan Lediard, IMS Principal, Mary Danahey, IEF, John Stern, IES Principal, Pascal Dupuis, GM, Hyatt



# Incline Education Fund Launches “Step Up for STEM” Campaign

Goal: Making Incline Schools the First K-12 STEM Designated School System in the State of Nevada

The Incline Education Fund (IEF) announced that it will be raising \$300,000 to help build the coordinated K12 STEM curriculum across all three Incline public schools, making it the first effort of its kind in the state of Nevada.

“This K-12 STEM vision will help ensure that every Incline student is career or college ready,” IEF Executive Director Mary Danahey said.

IEF has already helped to secure the Nevada Governor’s Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) STEM School Designation for two of the Incline schools and is working on the third. The OSIT designation denotes that a school demonstrates exemplary performance in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and is a model for schools around the state.

Danahey said that the funds will be directed to new and updated technology equipment and curriculum to keep the program cutting-edge. IEF will also support enrichment programs such as podcasting, coding, programming, and robotics and experiential opportunities that increase student engagement. It will also provide dedicated staffing and professional development for educators.

With the generous support of the Incline community and numerous grant awards over the past three years, IEF has been providing support for highly successful STEM pilot programs at all three Incline schools. Those programs include the makerspace program at the elementary school, the robotics program at the middle school and the engineering program at the high school.

Now IEF is looking to tie these three programs together and create a unique K12, vertically aligned STEM pathway for all Incline students. When the project is completed, the Incline Schools will be the first K12 STEM aligned system in the state of Nevada.

## Over \$120,000 in Community Support Already Pledged

The Step Up for STEM program has quickly been building momentum and enthusiastic support from local partners.

The Hyatt @ Lake Tahoe has committed \$50,000 as the lead corporate sponsor and the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation has generously donated \$20,000 to the initiative.

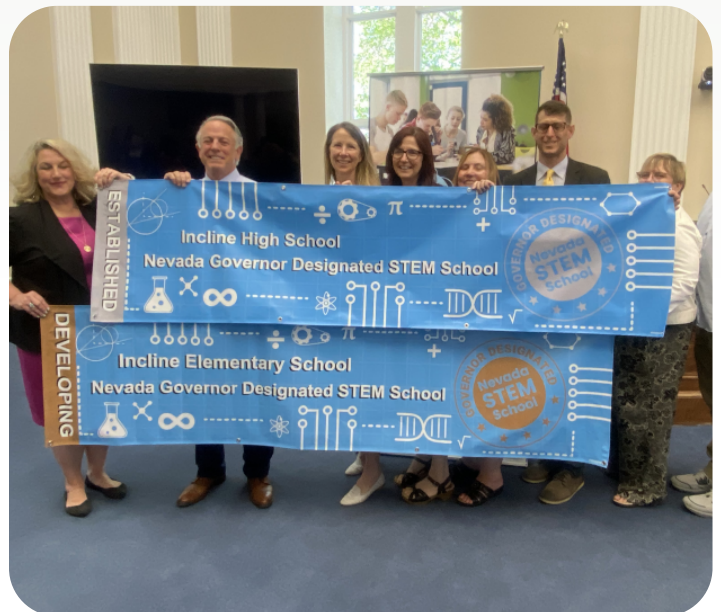
“The Hyatt is excited to be partnering with Incline Education Fund on the Step Up for STEM campaign. Their vision for a STEM learning curriculum across all of the K12 Incline schools will help prepare our kids with real-world, 21st century skills. We are proud to be supporting our local community as sponsors of this great program,” Andrew DeLapp, COO of Hyatt @ Lake Tahoe, said.

Sharon Schrage, co-founder of IEF, pointed out that “our goal is to give students the tools they need to ensure that they have a strong base of fundamentals and are able to take advantage of the rigorous coursework offered as the K12 STEM Pathway grows”.

## Why STEM?

STEM instruction is a problem-based, interdisciplinary approach where classroom activity often begins with a real-world problem, which helps students see the practical application of their studies. The most critical part of a STEM education is that it not only requires students to engage in creative problem solving and critical thinking, but also requires them to practice essential “soft” skills like communication and collaboration. The development of those interpersonal skills is fundamental to future student success, regardless of what careers are of interest as they enter the workforce. In short, STEM uniquely helps students prepare for their future.

Schrage said, “the Step Up for STEM program will broaden students’ academic skills and open additional opportunities for careers or higher education degrees. We believe that the Incline Schools are on their way to creating one of the best K12 school communities in the state of Nevada.”



For more information, or to become a corporate or private sponsor of the STEP Up for STEM Challenge, go to: [inclineeducationfund.org](http://inclineeducationfund.org) or click on this QR code:

