Science Foundation Arizona and JPMorgan Chase Continue Partnership to Award Grants to Middle-Skill Programs

Two grants totaling $118,000 awarded to Joint Technical Education Districts (JTED) to fill jobs in the community

PHOENIX (Oct. 16, 2014) – Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) and JPMorgan Chase have partnered again to help the future workforce of Arizona. Grants will be awarded to two Joint Technical Education Districts (JTED) to help students in middle-skill programs.

Middle-skill programs help fill jobs within the community that are in the skills gap ranging from aircraft mechanics and automotive technologies to culinary arts and veterinary assistants.

“While four-year degree programs are vitally important, there are other equally important pathways leading students to success careers in “middle skills” jobs. Developing the right skills to fill the multiple job openings now will close the skills gap and will always be needed in the future,” said William Harris, president and CEO of SFAz. “We are honored to help students achieve their potential and to help the future of Arizona.”

“We are proud to support Science Foundation Arizona’s program to help close the skills gap by funding demand-driven, technical skills training for high school students,” said Curtis Reed, Chase market manager for middle market/commercial banking in Arizona. “At JPMorgan Chase, we are committed to investing in our community to prepare our youth for the jobs of the future and keep our economy competitive.”

According to a recent report from USA Today, 2.5 million middle-skill jobs will be created by 2017. Phoenix is one of the top 10 metro areas to create jobs—approximately 60,300 jobs, 42 percent of those will be middle-skill. STEM education is essential to fill the majority of these jobs, creating a skilled workforce to further the economic development of the U.S.

JTEDs are public high school districts that provide tuition-free career and technical education to sophomore through senior level students to give them a head start on college and careers. Students enrolled in public, private and charter schools, are home-schooled or in the process of earning a GED and under the age of 22, may attend JTED classes.

Students may earn high school credit, and in some instances college credit, industry certifications and/or a state license. JTED courses help students learn the skills to obtain middle-skill jobs such as carpenter, caregiver, firefighter, civil engineering technicians, automotive technicians and dental hygienist, among many other professions.

The Hybrid Course Development for Microsoft Certification submitted by Pima County JTED in Tucson, is one of the recipients of a $60K grant. The Pima County JTED works with students in Pima County, Rio Rico and San Manuel.
The Virtual Medicine Experience submitted by Mountain Institute JTED located in Prescott, will also receive a $60K grant. Mountain Institute JTED provides courses to students in seven school districts within Western Yavapai County: Ash Fork, Bagdad, Chino Valley, Humboldt, Mayer, Prescott and Seligman.

About Science Foundation Arizona
Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization initiated in 2006 by the Greater Phoenix Leadership Inc., Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the Flagstaff Forty in conjunction with the executive and legislative branches of state government. SFAz serves as a catalyst for high-wage, knowledge-based jobs and economic diversity through administration and strict oversight of research, development and education grants to public education and other non-profit research performing institutions. For more information, visit www.sfaz.org and like us on Facebook.

About JPMorgan Chase
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