

Dart FoundationSM

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM EMILY MATTHEWS

Dart Foundation Manager

Focused support to make a true and lasting difference

At the Dart Foundation, we strive to improve the quality of life in our Giving Communities one grant at a time.

In 2018, we were pleased that our Board dedicated significant resources through a special, one-time large grant initiative to fund numerous grants in the key areas of healthcare, workforce development and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. As part of this large grant initiative, our Board chose to focus on these three areas with the expectation that we will make a true and lasting difference for the people who live and work in our Giving Communities.

For this edition of our Annual Report, we are highlighting three grants that were part of our large grant initiative. They

demonstrate the real, tangible and transformative efforts we are supporting in each of these key areas:

- **Healthcare:** Medical professionals in Oklahoma are using training mannequins to hone their skills and provide safer, better patient care.
- **Workforce development:** High school students in Kentucky are gaining first-time access to hands-on instruction and coursework that will lead to gainful employment upon graduation and help fill unmet local job demands.
- **STEM education:** Elementary students in California are using the latest STEM equipment to prepare themselves for tomorrow's competitive workplace.

In this Report, we are also featuring the all-important members of our Giving Committees who help us each year identify the deserving grant recipients who deliver long-term impact in their communities.

Since 1984, the values of the Dart family—and Dart Foundation founders W.A. and Claire Dart—have served as the bedrock that guides our philanthropic mission and drives the charitable work that will honor their legacy for years to come.

Through the collaborative efforts of our Board, Giving Committees and staff, we are proud of the long-lasting impact the Foundation makes in the communities we serve. ■



◀ Foundation Manager Emily Matthews visits grantee sites and giving areas to see grant programs in action and assist our Giving Committee members.

HEALTHCARE

High-tech mannequins lead to increased medical skill, experience

The health of a community, including ready access to quality medical care, is vital to its overall well-being.

Staff at local hospitals and medical facilities must stay abreast of new technology, training techniques and treatment solutions so they can adequately serve the healthcare needs of their community.

With that in mind, our Board selected healthcare as part of our large grant initiative for 2018.

The Foundation's focus on healthcare allowed Mercy Health Foundation in Ada, Oklahoma, to receive a \$50,000 grant for the purchase of sophisticated mannequins for advanced medical instruction.

The mannequins support simulation-based learning—a highly effective way to develop health professionals' knowledge and protect patients from unnecessary risks. Simulation-based training increases skills in areas such as emergency response, pediatrics, cardiology, trauma, obstetrics, general surgery and nursing. The mannequins add realism to the simulated environment by mimicking vital signs such as blood pressure and heart rate through their connection to a computerized system that processes clinical data.

More than 1,200 nurses, physicians, paramedics and other clinicians will have access to the mannequins.

“The advanced training provided through simulation mannequins leads to better patient care, improved health outcomes and enhanced confidence among clinicians,” said Lindsey Michel, Mercy Health Foundation's senior grant development manager. “We are very appreciative of the Dart Foundation's grant, which will benefit all patients from all demographic backgrounds who choose Mercy as their care provider.”

In addition to Ada, the Dart Foundation also provided funding in two other Giving Communities to purchase similar training mannequins. ■



Healthcare professionals in Ada, Oklahoma, gain key knowledge and skills from working with high-tech mannequins. ▶





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

New tools prepare high school students for the high-tech skilled trades jobs of tomorrow


Regional economic success requires a well-trained workforce equipped with the skills necessary to fill high-demand jobs. This reality is becoming even more important as existing workers begin retiring at an unprecedented rate across the country.

Foreseeing this critical need, our Board invested heavily in workforce development as part of our large grant initiative for 2018.

Board members recognize that today's students can find career success in multiple ways, including filling high-tech skilled trades jobs that are in need of trained and eager workers. Caverna Independent Schools in Horse Cave, Kentucky, is using its \$182,000 Dart Foundation grant to help fill that workforce need by establishing its first Advanced Manufacturing-Industrial Maintenance program for local high school students.

Using grant proceeds, the school district purchased state-of-the-art hydraulic and electrical training equipment, computers, student workstations and reusable supplies. The equipment is crucial to the district's efforts to train students at Caverna and neighboring Hart County High School to become tomorrow's maintenance mechanics and electrical technicians.

"The district is grateful for this grant from the Dart Foundation," said Cornelius Faulkner, Caverna Independent Schools' superintendent. "This program will allow students to enter the workforce with the skills necessary in today's competitive environment, leading to bright futures for both themselves and their communities." ■



◀ Skills learned in a Horse Cave, Kentucky, Advanced Manufacturing-Industrial Maintenance program will help students land high-demand jobs in the future.

STEM EDUCATION

Making hands-on learning available one kit at a time

Long before the STEM acronym became popular and educators emphasized the four subjects as one area of study, W.A. and Claire Dart established the Dart Foundation to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

As recognition of this longstanding interest, our Board included a special STEM grant opportunity as part of our 2018 large grant initiative.

In an increasingly complex world, skills such as solving problems, gathering evidence and analyzing information are more important than ever. So school systems—such as Dart Foundation large grant recipient Lodi Unified School District (USD) in Lodi, California—are striving to offer academic programs rich with practical STEM applications to prepare students for the future.

With its \$46,000 STEM grant, the district purchased a variety of STEM equipment and reusable supplies for its K-6 schools. The grant had strong appeal to the Board because of its potential to impact a broad range of students. The Lodi USD has developed a cataloguing system for the recently purchased STEM tools so any teacher can check out a single kit or bundle of kits. With the kits, educators can gear their lesson planning to include hands-on components that teach practical problem-solving skills and align with state education standards.

“The STEM kits enable our teachers to present a variety of subjects in a cross-curricular format, which has been a long-time goal,” said Charalee Cunningham, Lodi USD’s science coach. “We thank the Dart Foundation for this exciting and amazing opportunity.” ■



Grant funds help students ►
in Lodi, California, access a
variety of STEM resources.





COMMITTEES IN ACTION



Giving Committees keep funds local, impactful

Serving on a Dart Foundation Giving Committee helps those in the communities we serve fulfill a natural desire to make an impact in their own hometowns.

Committee members draw upon their experience and knowledge of their own communities and serve as our Board's "eyes and ears" in recommending deserving funding opportunities at the local level.

In 2018, more than 100 people served on the 25 Dart Giving Committees across the country.

Our Giving Committees meet quarterly to review grant applications from area schools and community organizations and then make thoughtful and informed grant recommendations to the Board. Committee members continue to participate in the process by hand-delivering checks and

attending check presentations. They also help spread the word about the Foundation's support of their community.

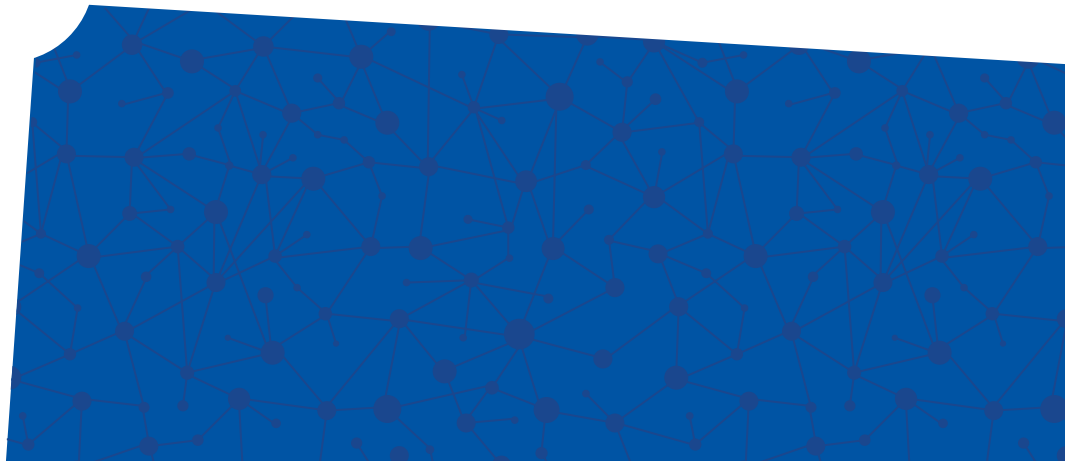
And, ultimately, their communities benefit from the improved educational and economic opportunities provided to the grantees.

As the Dart Foundation prepared to make significant awards in its three major grant areas for 2018, Giving Committee members offered feedback about the schools and non-profit organizations that applied for grants.

Reflecting on her experience serving on Lithonia's Giving Committee, member Rhonda Loyd said: "I really enjoy volunteering on the committee. It's a rewarding experience. I get to see how the Foundation's grants make a difference where I live, work and play." ■



▲
The Dart Foundation could not serve its mission without the dedication of our Giving Committees, such as these from:
Top left: Quitman, Mississippi
Top right: Thomaston, Georgia
Middle: Horse Cave, Kentucky
Bottom right: Lithonia, Georgia





Workforce



Community Enhancement

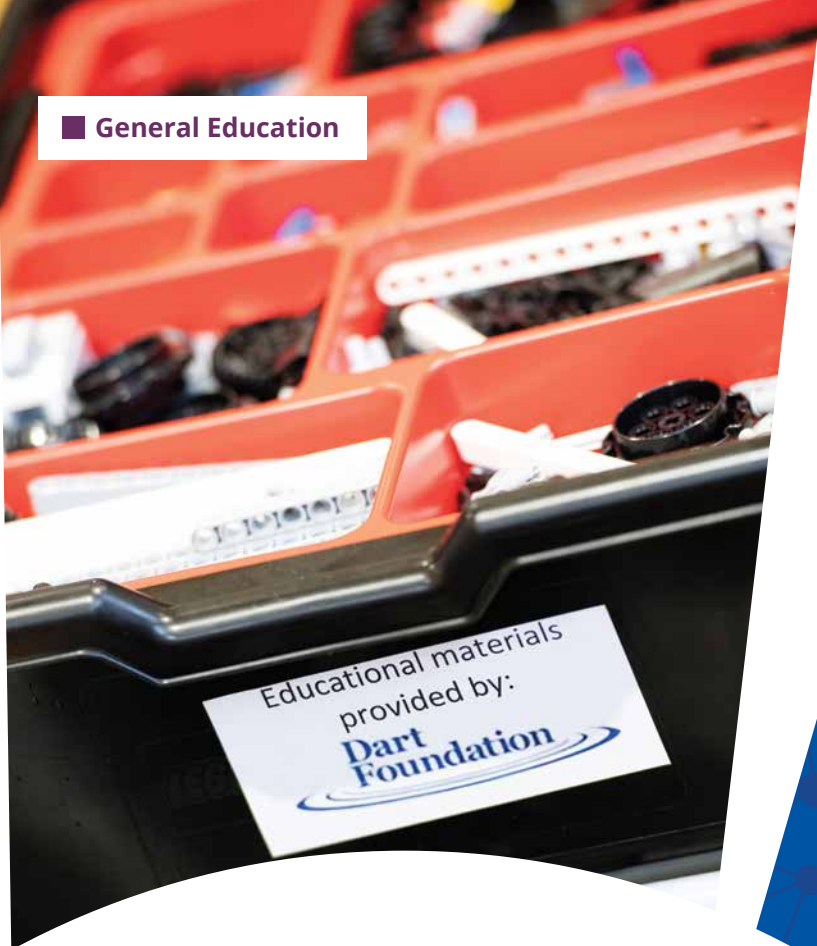


STEM Education

Development



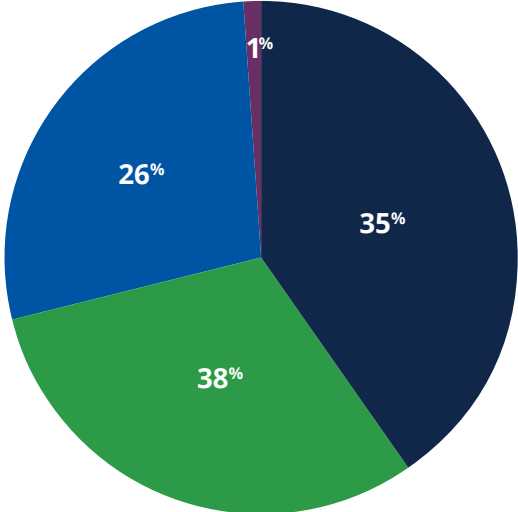
General Education

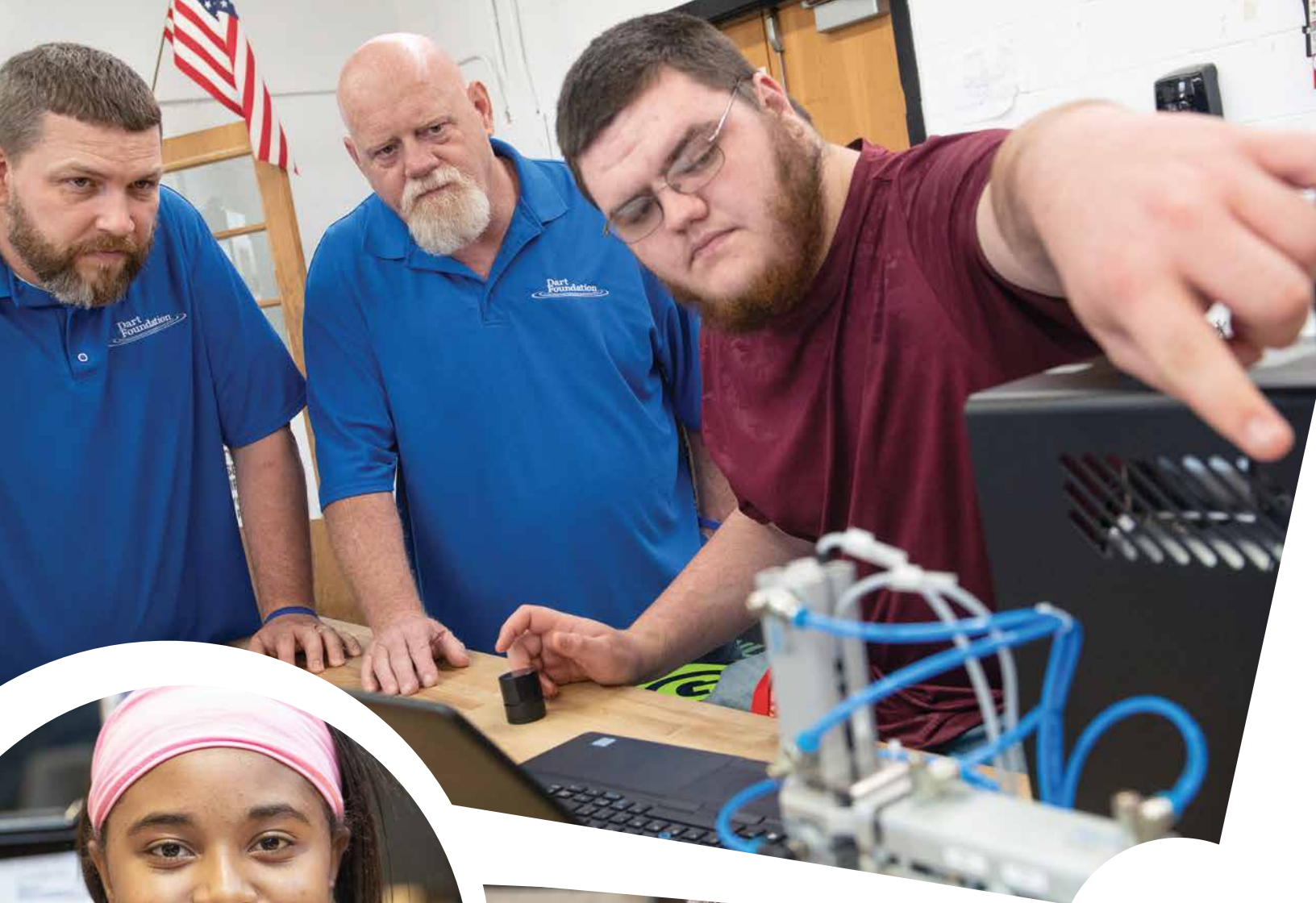


2018 By The Numbers

Funds Granted by Category

- STEM Education
- Community Enhancement
- Workforce Development
- General Education







DART FOUNDATION

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

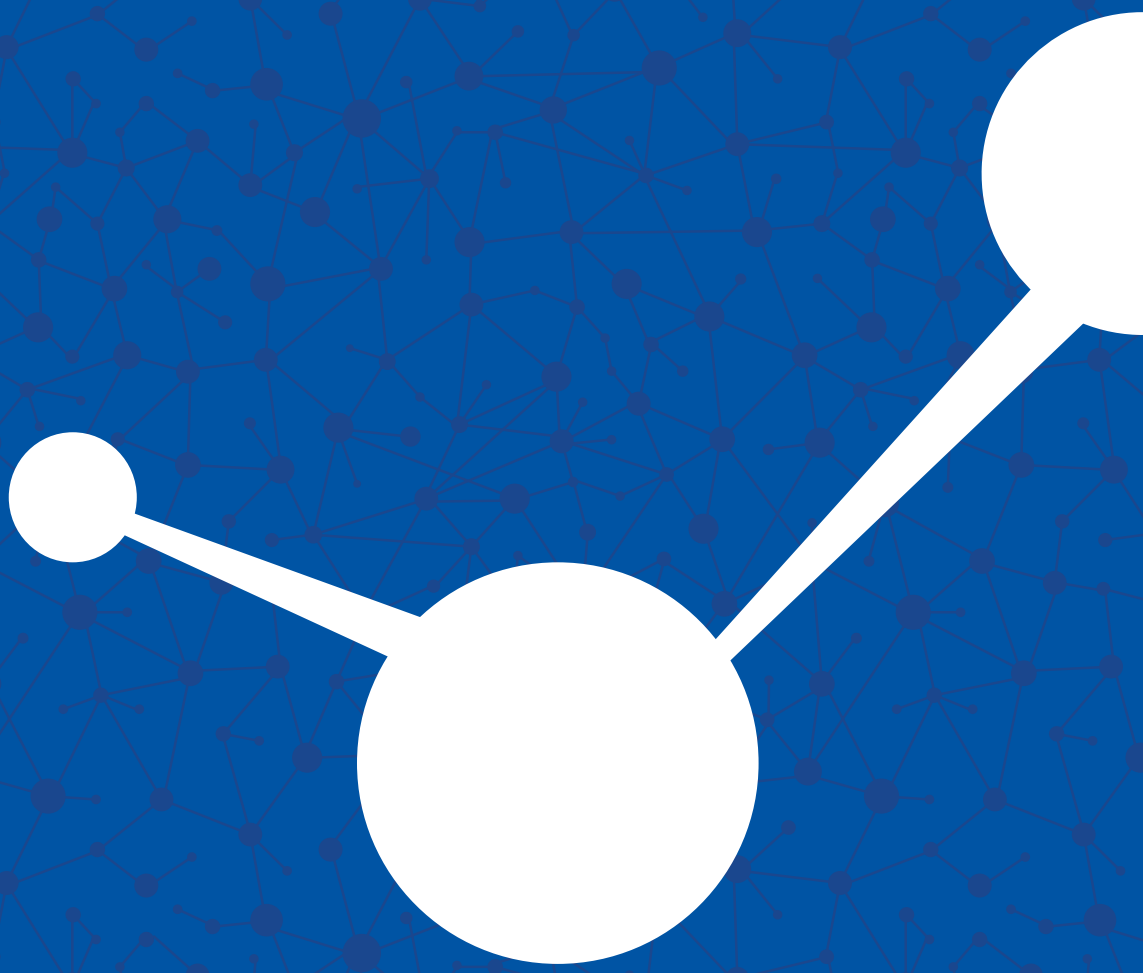
The mission of the Dart Foundation is to advance and encourage youth education, primarily in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We also support projects that strengthen and improve the quality of life in numerous identified communities.

Directors & Officers

Claire T. Dart
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