



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

July – September 2022

NEWSLETTER

Educate | Empower | Enable



Mission and Vision

At Shooting Stars Foundation, we envision a future where all young people have equal access to the STEM knowledge and skills needed to achieve academic success, career success, upward mobility, and a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency for themselves, their families, and their communities.



Quarter highlights

We are delighted to announce that we received a \$10,000 grant from Amgen. SSF has hosted partnership programs with Amgen over the past few years thanks to our dedicated SSF ambassador, Una Krisnan. We are excited to continue our collaboration with Amgen and to grow our partnership!



Marching towards Our Vision

681

STEM scholars funded

1953

underrepresented students served since BOY 2021

Join our Movement

STEM FOR ALL

STEM Camps

EAH Low Income Housing Summer Entrep Camp

SSF had the opportunity to partner with EAH Housing to put on a week long Summer Entrepreneurship camp, July 18th - 22nd. 12 participants between 7th - 11th grade, from 6 different EAH Locations were introduced to business and entrepreneurship fundamentals from industry experts. Students had the opportunity to develop a business from idea to pitch, work in teams to complete business plans, win prizes, and showcase final projects to expert judges and program leaders.

"My favorite part of camp was learning how to put together a project in a week and talking to new people."

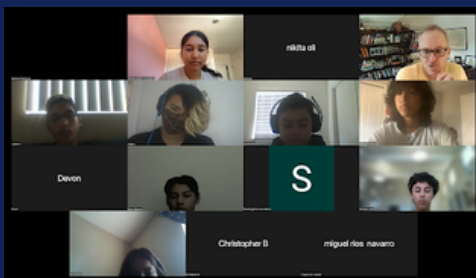
- Sandra Mora, Participant

"Thanks to Mrs. Subha I was able to learn about how whether I'm passionate or not of my dream work. I learned about the circle that reflected if my dream job would give me things like happiness, money, passion, etc."

- Brandon Leon, Participant

"The EAH camp was a blast. I enjoyed meeting new students and educating them on concepts that are a foundation to a successful future. I was able to teach valuable lessons while learning a few things myself. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything and I overall hope that all students took something away from the camp and enjoyed showing off their creative side!"

- Ananya Cheela, Peer Mentor



F5 Young Women Tech Immersion Program



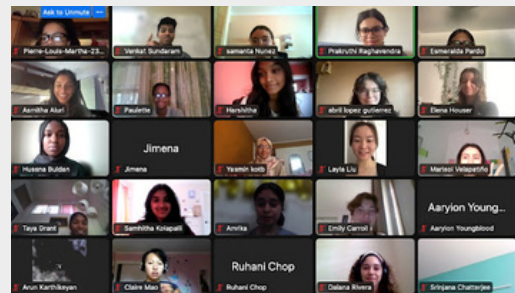
SSF completed a successful Summer Tech Immersion Program powered by our 2021 F5 grant. The goal of our Tech Immersion Program is to help underserved students access high quality STEM education and mentorship. This 3 week online program, sessions were project based and hands-on. Students created a fully developed business plan, website, and their own app and enjoyed being mentored by professionals and peers in each session.

Participant Break Down

- Over 100 applications
- 30 female, high school students registered
- 93% reported that they were very likely to pursue an academic or career path in STEM

"I enjoyed integrating concepts we learned into real situations was good. It's not very often that educational concepts are displayed in anything but an educational setting. I'm a beginner in Javascript and the coding section of this program really helped me further immerse myself in learning this coding language."

- Abril, Participant



"I loved when the program brought in mentors and professionals, I learned a lot from them. I also loved how we not only learned coding, entrepreneurship, etc, but also applied all those skills to a project. Ee got to pick a problem that was in someway important or meaningful to us that we could then solve and promote."

- Harshitha, Participant

"I enjoyed that we got to be creative, Also that I got to learn from people who have experience working in the STEM community. Lastly I enjoyed that I got to interact with other campers."

- Aaryion, Participant



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

Amgen Camp



24 middle and high school students in the Tampa Bay Area participated in the STEM entrepreneurship program organized by Amgen inc. and Shooting Stars Foundation. The 5 Day Entrepreneurship camp at Amgen Capability Center, Tampa took place on July 18-22, 2022. This STEM Entrepreneurship Program provided an opportunity for students to learn entrepreneurial, leadership and technology skills from Amgen professionals focusing on the biosciences, as well as exposure to functional areas such as finance, ideation, marketing, product design, web development. The participants pitched their business plans to professional judges, learned about career choices, experienced corporate culture and networked with Amgen leaders.





A 12th grade participant noted that this experience exposed her to new aspects of business that hopefully will open new doors. Another 8th grade participant said – “The workshops were incredible and mentors were hands-on. The camp was fun and engaging, and we will come back again”. A parent commented – “Amgen and SSF are leading the way to teach STEM to young minds. I wish every corporation can follow Amgen’s footsteps.” Rajanj, the youth organizer said “This was a valuable real life experience for all of us”. An Amgen mentor reported – “ The students were thirsty and ready to learn. Being able to take an idea to reality in just 5 days is amazing”



This initiative was led by Una Krisnan, Global Chair, AISN - Amgen Indian Sub-Continent Network and Shalini Nemani, Tampa Chair, WE2 - Women Empowered to be Exceptional, employee resource groups within Amgen; and sponsored by Haresh Patel, Amgen Tampa site lead and Cassidy Johnson, Amgen Tampa Corporate Affairs lead. The program was coordinated by youth officers of SSF - Rajan Sambandam from Lake Highland Prep School, Orlando and Ishi Jain from Palm Harbor University Program. A representative from Congresswoman Kathy Castor’s office and Latha Narayannan, CEO, Shooting Stars, attended the closing ceremony along with family members of the participants.



Shooting Stars IBM Partnership

IBM zDatathon

This September we hosted our IBM zDatathon powered by IBM. Over 600 final participants were introduced to IBM zSystems, had the opportunity to learn new skills from industry experts, and competed using innovative ideas to change the world.



Over 1,200 students around the globe registered from 8 countries. 166 teams were formed and submitted datascience projects ranging from early detection of COVID, dyslexia, crime against women, improving farming, detecting CO2 levels in oceans, alleviating world hunger, and deforestation just to name a few.



Due to the large turnout we expanded the IBM zDatathon Event to a hybrid platform where students could complete online and in person. Over 250 students attended in person at PES University Bangalore and over 150 students participated in person at Jaya Engineering, Chennai.

Thanks to our amazing IBM Mentors, students, and SSF volunteers, we executed a fantastic event!

"It is good to know that SSF team is willing to conduct the program in a broad environment. The way the students were grouped in order to ensure their interests meet each other and with better communication resulting better results!"

-Kota, Participant

"I think this is by far the best hackathon I've attended in my life."

-Devendra, Participant



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**



A Note From IBM:

We have seen an overwhelming response from students through the post event survey for more opportunities to learn about Enterprise Computing! A great way to get started is with IBM Z Xplore, a year-round learning platform where you can get hands-on experience, earn industry recognized badges and swag. Now is also a great time to participate in the IBM zStudent Contest - Learn a new skill and make the world a better place. For every student who completes the first contest challenge, IBM will donate a meal to feed a child for a day through the World Food Programme's #ShareTheMeal.

We look forward to seeing all the amazing things students will do as they embark on their learning journey to a great career!



Self e-STEM Camp

From July 11 to July 16 at McClymonds High School in Oakland, CA 50 African American middle and high school girls gathered for a Self e-STEM and Shooting Stars Foundations STEM Exploration week long camp. During this camp students learned entrepreneurship skills and website design skills. Students worked side by side with professional mentors to create their own businesses from ideation, to product design, marketing, creating a website, and pitching their business idea to a panel of judges.



INDIA Scholar Programs

Graduation and placement update

More than 80 SSF scholars have graduated in 2022 and we have successfully achieved 97% of placements. Our scholars are enjoying placements at top companies with an average salary of 10L per annum!

Next year 2023 more than 150 students will graduate and the campus placements have already begun - 20 students have already been placed, ahead of their graduation!



New Program: Medical Session

We have started an online community via WhatsApp group for 125 medical scholars of SSF and started monthly medical session by professional reputed doctors across India.

Our First Session by Major Dr. Jyotsana on : How to prepare for Armed Force Medical Exams

Peer Mentor Success Stories

To boost the confidence of our graduating students during campus placements we have implemented a Peer Mentorship Program where 2022 graduates who have already been placed are connecting with the 2023 graduating scholars. 18 matches have already been formed to help students prepare for placements!

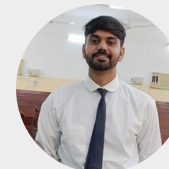
We are already seeing the success of this program: Mullai mentored Janaki who was placed in Hitachi Vantara as Associate Engineer. Dillon was mentored by Suresh and was placed in PWC (Price Water coopers).



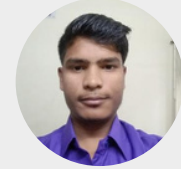
MULLAI



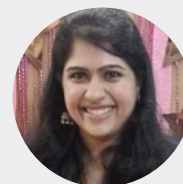
JANAKI



DILLON



SURESH



MAJOR JYOTHSNA
VENKATESH

Clinical Microbiologist and
Infectious Disease specialist

Ms. Venkatesh has Completed her
MD Microbiology from AFMC, Pune



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

Placement Highlights



JANAKI

Graduating in 2023,
Placed in Hitachi Vantara

"MILT and aptitude training played crucial roles in my life for getting placed and constant support from my SSF family and donor helped a lot . Mentorship program helped me lot during the interview . I'm more grateful to whole SSF family Thank you."



DILLON

Graduating in 2023
Placed in PWC

"Student Feedback: I got placed in one of the big four consultancy firm where verbal communication skills required. They take aptitude test as well and i got chance to prepare both with Shooting stars , Mentorship program helped me during the Interviews. Thank you so much ssf for providing constant support to my journey"



SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION



DHARA

Graduating in 2023
Placed in Aspire Systems
as a Software Analyst

"SSF helped me a lot in improving my communication skills(i'm a tamil medium student).and also preparing for aptitude. The financial support i got from SSF is very helpful to complete my degree.my donor is very supportive throughout this journey .my hearty thanks to whole SSF family"



ANIRUDH

Graduating in 2023,
placed in Samsung
as a Software Engineer

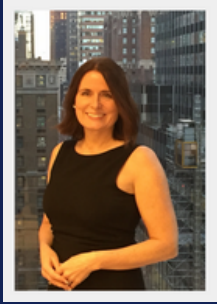
"I am very thankful to SSF family because they provide scholarship along with they helped me to groom myself as a professional by giving training on a regular basis."

STEM College Scholarship

We create a path for highly competent global scholars through college sponsorships, resources, training and mentorship to help them successfully graduate from top medical and engineering schools with a STEM degree.

[Learn more →](#)

4 New Board of Directors Members



**NANCY
BRADY BOYLE**

Currently Managing Director - Banking & BSA/AML Internal Audit, Controls Advisory, and Technology GRC at Grant Thornton LLP and 25+ years of experience in technology and IT consulting and audit.

"I'm excited to join the Board of SSF and help implement their mission of making a difference in the lives of underrepresented and underprivileged students and break the cycle of poverty through STEM Education, Scholarships and Empowerment. My love for STEM education was piqued early when a teacher recognized I was good in math and that provided me the confidence to take the harder math and science courses in high school and pursue degrees in the traditionally male-dominated fields of Engineering and Information Systems. Hoping to inspire others to do the same and shoot for the stars!"

- Nancy Brady Boyle, CAMS, CISA, ABCP



**CHRIS
GAEBLER**

Currently Chief Marketing Officer at Logz.io with 10+ year career in IT cybersecurity and 20+ years of experience in technology marketing for Guardicore (purchased by Akamai), Netscout, Arbor Networks, Kaspersky Labs and Sony Electronics.

"Education opens doors to pathways beyond what we can imagine. We should empower more students to reach those opportunities."

- Chris Gaebler



**DR. SORAYA
MATTHEWS**

Chief Equity Officer for the Fayette County Public School System in Kentucky. She has 20+ years experience in education with a passion for technology and innovation to help create more equitable opportunities.

"I am eager to partner with such a great team in supporting the efforts of the Shooting Stars Foundation. The intentional focus on education and entrepreneurship will help students envision different paths for their future that can change the trajectory of their lives."

- Dr. Soraya Matthews



**ANNAMALAI
MUTHU**

Annamalai Muthu, CPA, CA, MFin: Currently Vice President, Finance at Alterra Developments and 15+ years of finance and accounting experience with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Allied Properties REIT, Temerty Family Office and Yamana Gold.

"Providing underprivileged students access to education improves their livelihood and contributes to a more productive society and economy. Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." Shooting Stars Foundation's mission is doing just that - breaking the cycle of generational poverty through STEM education."

-Annamalai Muthu, CPA, CA, MFin



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

Upcoming Events and Programs

Program	Participants	Location	Dates
Whitewater Middle School - Introduction to Game Design	Whitewater Middle School - 8th Grade	Online	10/17 to 11/17 1:30 - 3 PM EST
Community in Schools - Intermediate Game Design	Community in Schools Charlotte, NC	Online	11/8 - 12/1 - 6 PM - 7:30 PM EST
Donor, Volunteer and Partner Appreciation Dinner	All SSF donors, volunteers, and partners	Fremont, CA	11/6 - 5 PM - 9 PM
Xilinx All Girls Hackathon	High school girls in the US and internationally	Online	12/11 - 12/12 - 7 AM PST to 7 AM PST
EAH Low Income Housing - Introduction to Game Design	Middle and high school residents of EAH Housing communities	Online	1/2 - 1/6 - 3 PM - 5 PM PST
Monthly Ed Session: College Admissions Trends and Changes Seminar with FLEX College Prep	Any and all 8-12 graders looking to apply to US colleges and universities	Online	11/12 - 4-5 PM PST
Monthly Ed Session: CS/Engineering-Winning Strategies For Getting In with FLEX College Prep	Any and all 8-12 graders looking to apply to US colleges and universities	Online	12/3 - 4-5 PM PST
Shooting Stars Fundraiser	General public - All are welcome	Portland, OR	12/10 - 5-9 PM



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

WANT TO BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER?



@shootingstarsorg



@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc



@support@sstarsfoundation.org

PARTNER WITH SSF



STEM CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES WITH STEM

SSF Mission

Empower Individuals & Communities
to Break the Cycle of Generational
Poverty through STEM Education

SSF Impact

1500

Underserved
students reached

100

STEM programs
hosted

90%

Indicated dramatic
increase in tech skills



@shootingstars



@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc



@support@sstarsfoundation.org

Why should you partner with SSF ?

- Increase STEM Participation in Underserved Youth
- Employee Skill Based Volunteering
- Employee Engagement and Team Building
- Build DE&I Hiring Pipeline

“ Over the last four years we've sponsored seven hackathons – both in-person and virtual with Shooting Stars. The most recent virtual hackathon attracted 47 employee volunteers across the company. In addition to the satisfaction of working with students, a hackathon is an intense team-building opportunity for employees. ”

-Karen McCloskey, Corporate Sponsorship, NetScout



<https://shooting-stars-foundation.org/corporates>



2022 Sample STEM Programs

F5 Young Women Tech Immersion



- 30 high school girls
- 3 week, 60 hour immersion camp
- Students learned about tech business and entrepreneurship and completed courses in web and app design to bring their tech business to life!

After Camp Survey

- 95% will pursue a STEM Major
- 97% will attend another SSF Camp

Amgen Tech Business Camp

- 30+ middle and high school students at Amgen headquarters in Tampa Bay
- 5 team businesses, website and apps were created
- 20+ Amgen employees engaged
- Showcase day included Amgen executive leadership, participant parents, offices of the Tampa Bay Governor and Congresswoman



IBM zDatathon



- >600 participants online and in-person
- 55+ team Tech for Good data science projects completed on IBM zPlatform
- 40+ IBM employees engaged
- 30+ internship opportunities provided by IBM

Netscout Cybersecurity Program



- 30+ high school students from Charlotte, NC
- 8+ cybersecurity projects and research papers created
- 10+ Netscout employees engaged

After Camp Survey

- 100% of participants reported their understanding of cybersecurity and security breaches increased drastically
- 100% of students reported that they enjoyed this camp and would recommend it to their friends

<https://shooting-stars-foundation.org/corporates>