

January – March 2024



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

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

This quarter we are thrilled to welcome a new US based employee, Oindrila Das. Oindrila will be serving as US program manager, promoting and organizing our US based STEM programs. A big SSF welcome to Oindrila!

In Q1 we also said a hard goodbye to Melissa Hurtado who served as a US STEM Program Manager for more than two years. Her dedication to our programs, her organizational skills, and incredibly collaborative nature will be missed. Melissa, best of luck to you in your new role as Program Readiness Coordinator at Universal Technical Institute!

Marching Towards Our Vision

1,031

STEM scholars funded

6,639

students served since BOY
2021

Welcome To *Our Team*



Oindrila Das

US STEM Program Manager

We are confident that your unique skills and expertise are going to make a significant contribution to our success.

US STEM Programs

AAUW ALL GIRLS HACKATHON

This quarter, our January 21st AAUW funded All Girls Hackathon in San Jose and online impacted the lives of hundreds of high schoolers. The journey leading up to the hackathon was filled with learning, collaboration, and inspiration, and we're grateful to have shared it with such dedicated individuals.

2024 ALL GIRLS HACKATHON



A WRAP UP



The exclusive Wix how to session for Huerta Dolores students further exemplified our commitment to providing tailored opportunities for growth and learning. The highlight of the pre-hackathon events was undoubtedly the Women in Tech Panel, where distinguished industry leaders shared their personal journeys and invaluable insights. With over 320 registered participants forming 60 teams across both online and in-person modes, the energy and enthusiasm were palpable. The submission of 48 impactful "Tech for Good" projects is a testament to the creativity and dedication of our participants.

Moreover, the long-term impact of the All Girls Hack 2024 is evident in the feedback received. With a significant percentage of participants reporting increased expertise in coding/programming and expressing a heightened interest in pursuing STEM majors in college, we have succeeded in igniting a passion for technology and innovation.



"Learnt a lot, and would love to participate again." - Hasika Sridhar (Participant)

"I really enjoyed working in a team and meeting new people. Not to mention, The mentors were very helpful, I loved the prompts they gave us!" - Aarna Singh (Participant)



AAUW ALL GIRLS HACKATHON

SAN JOSE, CA + ONLINE



STEM Programs

AMD PERSVASIVE AI DEVELOPER CONTEST

The AMD Pervasive AI Developer Contest, in which Shooting Stars Foundation participated as an outreach partner, made a significant impact by encouraging students to register for the challenge, particularly focusing on hardware-related projects. Through strategic outreach efforts, SSF successfully facilitated 2,600 registrations for the contest, accounting for a significant portion of the overall international submissions.



The outreach and implementation process included engaging 100+ college leaders through a Zoom session, conducting workshops and sessions in 17 colleges, and providing coaching and support to students through SSF coaches trained on AMD projects.



This comprehensive approach resulted in over 500 idea submissions, showcasing the creativity and innovation of the participants. The ideation projects ranged from MedAI: Instant Medical Insights Platform to AI-Assisted Autonomous Helper Robot with Multimodal Interaction, demonstrating the diverse applications of AI in various fields.



"The Ideathon provided a collaborative platform that encouraged diverse thinking and innovative solutions. We learned valuable insights into problem-solving and will now focus on incorporating more creative approaches in my projects."

- Shreya M B, Participant



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

AMD PERVASIVE AI DEVELOPER CONTEST

DELHI, BANGALORE, HYDERABAD, NOIDA, CHENNAI



STEM Programs

VIVO IGNITE

This quarter, We are thrilled to share the success of the recent 'Vivo Ignite: Technology and Innovation Awards' organized by Vivo India, in collaboration with NCERT and iHub DivyaSampark, IIT Roorkee, and supported by Shooting Stars Foundation.



The event, held in New Delhi, showcased the innovative potential of young minds across India. With over 19,000 registrations and 4,000 projects from students in Grades 8 to 12, the competition aimed to encourage innovation and problem-solving.



The winning project, "Smart Street" – "Where Innovation Meets Sustainability," focused on creating safer, greener, and scenic roads through smart street implementation, earning the top prize of ₹7 lakh. Projects like "Multi-Functional Eco-Friendly Agro Machine", "Automatic Machine For Ready To Grow Oyster Mushroom Bags",

Geetaj Channana, Head of Corporate Strategy, Vivo India, commended the winners and highlighted Vivo's commitment to nurturing emerging talent. The event's success was evident in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among India's youth, with certificates and exciting goodies awarded to all 10 national finalists and 200 zonal winners.

Additionally, the top 25 ideas are under evaluation for research study/incubation/startup by iHUB DivyaSampark - the innovation centre of IIT Roorkee. We at SSF are proud to have partnered with Vivo India for this inspiring event.

"The SSF team played a crucial role in spearheading vivo Ignite and ensuring its success. Their adept coordination with stakeholders and unwavering support significantly contributed to the program's achievements. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with them in the future."

- Geetaj Channana, Head of PR & CSR, vivo India



"Women are the true builders of society."

vivo & SSF together building the society



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

vivo IGNITE 2024



In-person event at Vivo Office, New Delhi

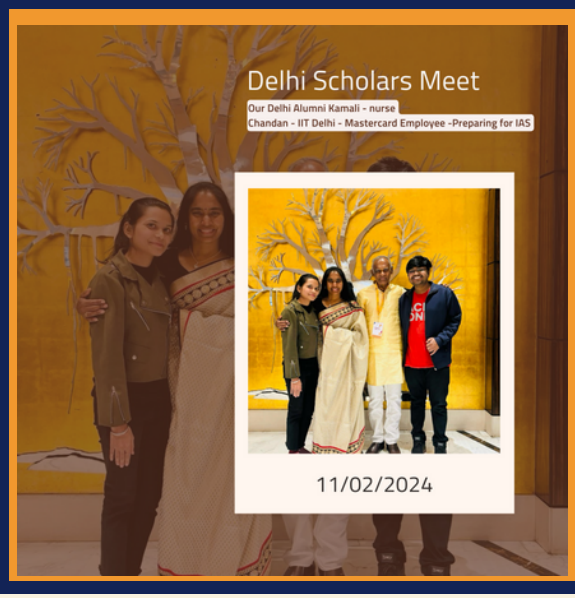


Execution Team

STEM Programs

VIVO DELHI SCHOLARS MEET

We love our shining Alumni!! We're grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with our Delhi alumni, Komal and Chandrudu. Komal is now a dedicated nurse, and planning to do her Masters in Nursing. Chandrudu, a Mastercard employee, is now preparing for the IAS, fulfilling his parents wishes. They are leading fulfilling lives, committed to helping others.



CHENNAI STUDENTS MEET AND AI INSIGHTS : EXPLORING TOMORROW

On January 6th, Chennai's Hamsa restaurant was buzzing with excitement as 20 SSF scholars and alumni gathered for a special lunch event. SSF organized a AI INSIGHTS : EXPLORING TOMORROW session which was a remarkable gathering that delved deep into the far-reaching impact of AI across industries. The focus of the day was the pervasive impact of AI across many industries.

Renowned panel speakers Ganesh, an expert with a distinguished career at Apple and Microsoft, alongside Jayashree, a seasoned professional adept at providing invaluable career advice to young professionals and a current board member. Over plates of delicious food, everyone got a taste of AI insights, making it a memorable blend of learning and good company.



STEM Programs

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CAREER ADVANCEMENT

On January 21, our live Zoom event brought together 25+ SSF Alumni and Scholars for an insightful Young Professionals Career Advancement led by our panel expert Fathima Sait.

The session commenced with a thoughtful discourse aimed at dispelling common myths surrounding career development, ensuring that participants were equipped with accurate and up-to-date information.

A pivotal component of the event was the mock interview segment, where participants had the opportunity to engage in simulated interviews, offering them a practical glimpse into the dynamics of professional interactions. The session focused on effective strategies for career advancement, creating a dynamic platform for young professionals to gain valuable insights and foster collaboration for personal and professional growth.

Young Professional Career Advancement Session

Key Note Speaker

Fathima Sait

Head of Organizations and Bureau
Standard Chartered Bank, Bengaluru.

With more than 20 years of experience in Big MNCs like Goldman Sachs, Standard Chartered she is a strong Technology Professional in leading and building teams with global outlook, technical and engineering depth.

SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

21st Jan 2024 at 6pm IST

OPTIV X SSF PARTNERSHIP

Optiv is sponsoring a computer lab at Appareddy Palya in Indiranagar, Bangalore. SSF connected Optiv with Seniors for Change who have adopted this school.



SSF'S VISIT TO DESHPANDE STARTUPS

A very productive 2 day visit to the residential facility of Deshpande Skilling and Deshpande Startups in Hubli. Campuses resonating with positivity and fostering a culture of openness, the Deshpande team lead by Mr.P.N.Nayak was more than willing to share their learnings on successful methodologies, operational details, collaborations and was also willing to extend support in exploring options of setting up a sandbox model in Chennai.



Scholar Programming

MILT TRAINING WITH INDUSTRY EXPERT MR. DANIEL JACOB

The MILT training program, conducted for our scholars, was a transformative experience led by Mr. Daniel Jacob. With his 20+ years of experience and proven training methods, Mr. Jacob guided 21 scholars to successfully complete the program.



The program's focus on leadership qualities, inner confidence, self-esteem, positive thinking, and holistic life approaches proved invaluable to the participants. With Shooting Stars Foundation organizing such training programs, it has helped students overcome the fear of speaking, empowering them to speak confidently and build self-esteem.

"The way of speech is an art!! Through the MILT program, I have learnt to see my way of speech as a way of expression. This wonderful program by Daniel Sir taught me human relationship principles, gave me a spiritual base to connect with God and the ultimate confidence to face the audience!! "
-Nagalakshmi, Medical Electronics Student at Saveetha Engineering College.

SCHOLAR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Nature Photography Contest held by SSF was a resounding success, attracting around 70 entries from scholars and alumni eager to capture the beauty of the natural world. From February 8th to 18th, participants showcased their creativity and originality, with each photo telling a unique story of their connection to nature. Judges Gurdayal Singh and Basava Kumar had the challenging task of selecting the top 5 winners based on the visual impact of the images and the quality of the captions.

The winners were announced during a live meeting, where their exceptional ability to capture the essence of nature was celebrated. Through this contest, participants not only showcased their photography skills but also highlighted the importance of preserving and appreciating the natural environment. Congratulations to all participants and winners for their outstanding contributions!



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

Spotlight

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

This quarter we say a big thank you to Youth Officer Aksaana who was a critical part of our January 2024 AAUW hackathon and who is now tirelessly preparing for our Western Digital Hackathon in April. Aksaana, thank you for your dedication to our mission!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Another big thank you to donor Ganesh who routinely goes out of his way to meet his scholars and other scholars during his personal travels in India. We are so grateful for donors like Ganesh who go the extra mile to inspire and support our scholars!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumni Board Leaders have been instrumental in coordinating SSF Scholar/Alumni engagement initiatives and incredibly supportive in SSF impactful events!

Over the next year, our Board aims to strengthen Alumni connections, foster professional networking opportunities, and improve engagement efforts for all. It's humbling to have such amazing Leaders in our circle!

Your support inspires and motivates our teams to keep pushing forward. Thank you for being a shining light in this wonderful SSF journey.

EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HEADS		ONBOARDING AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HEADS	
YOGESH RAMA MOGER	KRITIKA KUMARI	BHUVANESHWARI	SAURABH SINGH
CAREERS AND PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE HEADS		MENTORING AND VOLUNTEERING COMMITTEE HEADS	
LOKENDRA SINGH	RANJEET YADAV	KELVIN	SRI VARSHA

Placement Highlights



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

Training which I get from ssf help me alot in the time of placement process and also the scholarship which I get from donor made to freely focus on my academics rather than search for fee to pay college fee. Ssf supports me financially, emotionally and also gaining knowledge . Ssf is biggest support to achieve a good job in good company.

 Metallurgical and Materials engineering student placed at Vedanta groups as GET.



Gowri Gangra

SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

I thank SSF and my donor to let me complete my graduation successfully without any worries about my fee. I specifically thank SSF for arranging training sessions which helped me to improve my skills.

 Aerospace Engineering student placed at Coloforge- Pan India as Product Manager.



Isha Unnikrishnan

SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

SSF scholarship help me many ways in my acedamey and this scholarship is use full and buy laptop for my studies

 Mechanical Engineering student placed at Deloitte groups as SAP.



Yeshwanth

SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

I extend my deepest gratitude for the invaluable support provided by SSF and my donor in funding and training, which played a crucial part in securing my college placement. Your generosity has not only lightened my financial load but has also empowered me with skills vital for success. I am truly thankful for your impact on my educational journey.

 Applied Mathematics student placed at Coloforge- Pan India as Data scientist Engineer.



Siddharth

*All scholar names are changed for privacy purposes



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 →](#)

Upcoming Events and Programs

Program	Participants	Location	Dates
AMD Pervasive AI Developer Contest	College Students	Online	Ongoing
Western Digital In Person Hackathon	Middle and High School Girls	Western Digital Milpitas, CA	April 17th
Western Digital Online Hackathon	Middle and High School Girls	Online	April 20th
SSF TechBridge Program	9th-11th Graders in Bay Area	Bay Area and Online Hybrid	July 8th-26th
Amgen Thousand Oaks AI Entrepreneurship Camp	Middle and High school students in Thousand Oaks	Thousand Oaks	July 22nd-July 26th
IBM Datathon	College Students Internationally	Chennai, Bangalore, London, Oslo	October 2024



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**