

July – September 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 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

The Shooting Stars Foundation (SSF) is excited to welcome Karen McCloskey as our newest board member! With a strong background in CSR and community service, Karen is a perfect fit for SSF's mission. A long-time supporter of SSF, Karen has partnered with us on funded programs and volunteered at several SSF hackathons. Her passion and firsthand experience with our initiatives make her an invaluable addition to the board.

In her words: "I'm excited to join the Board of Shooting Stars Foundation and contribute to the organization's growth. Having witnessed SSF's impact, I'm eager to invest more of my time to help."

We look forward to Karen's leadership and vision as we continue empowering students and communities. Welcome aboard, Karen!

Marching Towards Our Vision

1215

STEM scholars funded

40,000

students attended our
hackathons since BOY 2021



Welcome to

SHOOTING
STARS BOARD

Karen McCloskey

Social Impact and
Corporate Responsibility Leader

Visit Our Website
<https://shooting-stars-foundation.org>



Quarterly Highlights

RANGEELA'24 - A DONOR EVENT

This quarter, the Shooting Stars Foundation (SSF) hosted its flagship event, Rangeela 2024, a powerful celebration of culture, creativity, and community impact. Rangeela is more than a showcase of dance; it's a cornerstone of SSF's mission bringing together Portland's diverse community to support our efforts in providing educational opportunities for underserved students.

With a sold-out crowd of over 500 attendees, the event featured 20 spectacular performances from 150 talented dancers, spanning a range of vibrant cultural styles. Highlights included Portland's first Battle of Bollywood High School Competition, where seven teams brought fresh energy and innovation, and the Spice of Life dance competition, which showcased a dazzling variety of talent. Enthusiastic cheers from the audience and a beautiful stage enhanced by vivid backdrops and lighting underscored the magic of the evening.

A deeply moving highlight of Rangeela 2024 was a success story shared by a Shooting Stars Foundation student, who inspired the audience with a personal journey and the impact of education. The audience responded generously, with contributions that will fund scholarships for students in need.

The event also included delicious snacks and tea, enjoyed by all, along with offline contests that reached thousands and created a buzz leading up to the day.

We're grateful for the vital support of our dedicated sponsors, whose partnership made this event possible:

- Title Sponsor: Grit Worx Residential Mortgage (Gokul Gopalasamy)
- Gold Sponsor: PDX AI Realty Group (Venkat Muthu)
- Food Sponsors: Vanakkam PDX, Namaste Indian Cuisine, Apna Bazaar
- Prize Sponsors: Oviyam Fotography (Premi Shiv), Mindtree (Harini Sukumaran), PDX Prime Realtors (Regina Ananthan), Desi Megamart (Meena Mohan), More Realty (Umasree Sathyasekaran)

Special thanks to Gidu Sriram and Sarathy for capturing beautiful photos and to Kanu Patel for videography.

Our beloved Portland audience showed incredible enthusiasm, supporting SSF's mission and embracing even minor technical glitches, including new tech like Throat Vote. Behind the scenes, an outstanding team of volunteers and organizers worked tirelessly to ensure every detail contributed to the success of this quarter's flagship event.



**SHOOTING STARS
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RANGEELA'24 - PORTLAND DONOR EVENT



US STEM Programs

DETROIT HISPANIC DEV CORP CAMP

We at the Shooting Stars Foundation proudly hosted the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC) STEM Entrepreneurship Camp, a week-long program focused on innovation, teamwork, and entrepreneurship.

Held at DHDC's Teen Best Buy Center, the camp brought together over 40 high school students from metro Detroit, representing 14+ schools.

Notably, 100% of participants came from underserved minority backgrounds, reflecting our commitment to empowering underrepresented youth in STEM.

Throughout the week, students engaged in immersive sessions covering Ideation, Product Design, Marketing, and Finance, guided by entrepreneurs and professionals.

Working in teams, they developed and pitched their ideas to a panel of judges, competing for multiple prizes.

The week concluded with a vibrant award ceremony that left students inspired to consider future paths in STEM and entrepreneurship, with 60% indicating an interest in pursuing a STEM major in college.

This program's success would not have been possible without the hard work of the DHDC team, including Marisol Teachworth and Adrian Salazar, and the dedication of organizers Vishal Swamy, Anish Manda, and Aditya Akkaraju.

Special thanks to our volunteers Nirvan Daram, Eashan Daram, and Gowtham Kantamneni, and mentors J. Moore, Veer Patel, Aysath Rukshana, and Raju Brahmandhabheri. Read what our participants say,

"I liked being able to use creativity, lead a group, and learn more about marketing."- Elizabeth García, Participant

"Very fun enjoying had so much fun with friends love to see it next year"- Jorge Yopez, Participant

"I had fun making the presentation. I liked working in a group. I liked challenging myself."- Angelica Chunn, Participant

The Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation Camp is a testament to the power of community partnership in shaping the next generation of STEM innovators and entrepreneurs.



**SHOOTING STARS
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DETROIT HISPANIC DEV CORP CAMP

DHDC'S TEEN BEST BUY CENTER, TRUMBULL AVENUE, DETROIT, MI



US STEM Programs

FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMP

The 2024 Financial Literacy Camp, a collaboration between The Shooting Stars Foundation and YouthWORKS Richmond, provided students with foundational skills in finance and technology, blending practical financial education with a tech-forward approach.

With a goal to make STEM and finance more accessible, the camp engaged participants in hands-on projects focused on budgeting, goal setting, and the economics of college expenses, equipping them with essential financial tools to navigate their future.

Around 20 students registered, with 14 actively participating across five days. The camp primarily attracted students from 11th grade to college, most of whom attended at least four sessions.

Each day covered a key financial concept, starting with budgeting and setting SMART goals on Day 1, followed by discussions on inflation and money management on Day 2, and an introduction to banking basics on Day 3. Day 4 was devoted to working on final projects, while Day 5 served as a showcase where students presented their research, took part in a Kahoot quiz, and celebrated their achievements.

The camp's impact was clear, with students completing final research projects on the cost of college, collectively analyzing financial strategies that would be valuable as they plan for higher education.

Each participant received \$150 for their contributions and graduated with certificates. Participants reported a significant increase in their understanding of finance, with 100% feeling comfortable with programming and game design concepts—a 64% jump from the start of the camp.

Nearly all participants expressed satisfaction, with 93% saying they would recommend the camp to their friends. Instructors and peer mentors received glowing feedback for their support and effective teaching.

The camp concluded with heartfelt thanks to all organizers, instructors, and mentors who made this impactful experience possible. Through their dedication, they successfully fostered a strong introduction to finance, leaving participants inspired and better equipped for their future.



**SHOOTING STARS
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US STEM Programs

TECHBRIDGE PROGRAM

In Q3, SSF hosted the TechBridge program, creating an enriching environment where high school students could tackle real-world challenges through mobile application development, product design, and marketing.



Aimed at empowering students to explore technology for good, the program provided a collaborative space with mentorship from industry professionals and hands-on opportunities to build impactful projects.

Held in San Jose, CA, TechBridge welcomed participants with or without coding experience, guiding them through a structured learning journey that included daily app development workshops, product design sessions, a LatinX in Tech panel, and on-site visits to companies like Gameheads, Intel, and Lucid Motors. Through these immersive experiences, students gained insights into various tech fields, worked in teams to develop projects from scratch, and crafted pitches presented to expert judges.

As part of their journey, TechBridge participants learned crucial skills in teamwork, problem-solving, and presentation, with mentors providing guidance every step of the way. The program's impact was evident, with students expressing newfound confidence in both technical and soft skills. Many reported a significant increase in their understanding of coding and programming, while 100% stated they would recommend the program to friends and attend another SSF event. Additionally, 80% of participants felt more inclined to pursue a STEM major after TechBridge, while an equal percentage expressed interest in volunteering for future programs.

At the Lucid Motors showcase, all participants received certificates, with a \$100 gift card awarded to each student who presented a mobile application. Students left TechBridge with fully developed projects and new perspectives on how technology can address societal challenges. They expressed appreciation for the supportive and dynamic environment created by SSF and the TechBridge volunteers, who inspired them to keep learning and think creatively about tech's potential to make a positive impact.



**SHOOTING STARS
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TECHBRIDGE PROGRAM

IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS



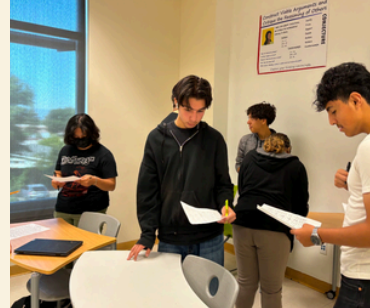
LUCID MOTORS



GAMEHEADS



INTEL, USA



PARTICIPANTS ENGAGEMENT

US STEM Programs

AMGEN THOUSAND OAKS AI ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This quarter, we were privileged to partner with Amgen for the 4th year of the STEM Entrepreneurship Program, held at Amgen's Thousand Oaks campus. The event brought together 175 middle and high school students, inspiring them to explore their potential as future STEM leaders.

Our collaboration with Amgen underscores a mutual commitment to fostering diversity in STEM fields and equipping young talent to drive the science of tomorrow.

Over 150 Amgen staff members dedicated their time and expertise to mentor the students, sharing valuable insights and hands-on learning.

A heartfelt thank you to the Amgen South Asian Network, the organizing team comprising six Amgen Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), and 11 student volunteers, whose combined efforts ensured a successful event.

We're especially grateful to the core team members, including Brian D'Souza, Unamalai Krisnan, SAFe, CPA,



Pawandeep Narang, SAFe, CSM, AWS, and Vibha Daga, whose dedication under the executive leadership of Arpit Davé was instrumental.

Sal Khan's powerful address motivated students to envision their roles in the future of science and technology, reinforcing our shared belief in the importance of nurturing a diverse generation of STEM leaders.

The STEM Entrepreneurship Program not only promotes STEM education and innovation but also strengthens community engagement and fosters Amgen's culture of giving back. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive future for the Los Angeles community and beyond.



India Programming

ALL INDIA WOMEN HACKATHON

The All India women hackathon hosted by the Shooting Stars Foundation, in partnership with World Wide Technology (WWT), was an inspiring showcase of innovation by college women in technology. Participants joined us online on August 3rd to compete, collaborate, and create impactful tech solutions.

A huge thank you to all participants, whose creativity and hard work made the event a success, and to WWT for their generous sponsorship, enabling us to provide mentorship and resources that empowered these young women to make a difference.

Our top three teams delivered outstanding projects. Team AIWH095 – Starfish claimed the first prize with SafeSpace, a platform for women’s safety and empowerment. The runner-up, Team AIWH037 – She_Crafts, presented CyberGuard, which focuses on privacy and fairness through ethical AI.

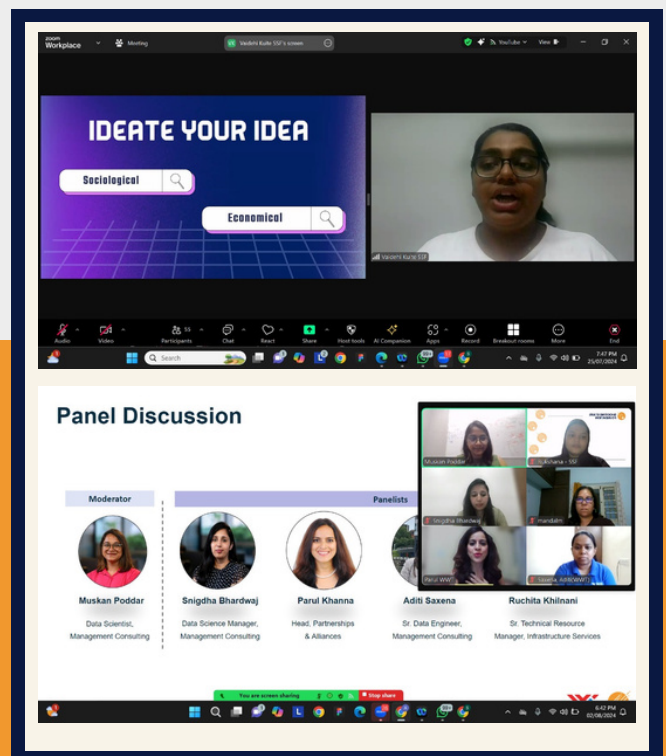
Team AIWH081 – WomenCodeToGreen won third place with their AI-driven solution for sustainable farming. Each project demonstrated innovation, purpose, and a commitment to addressing pressing societal issues.

Thanks to our mentors and judges, particularly WWT’s data consultants, who provided invaluable guidance,

helping participants refine their solutions. Our volunteers also deserve special recognition for their dedication, ensuring the event ran smoothly behind the scenes.

Through this hackathon, participants gained real-world experience, skill development, and networking opportunities with industry experts. With top cash prizes totaling INR 60,000 and the chance to build professional connections, this event was a unique opportunity for young women in tech to shine.

We are excited to see where these talented women will go next, using the skills and insights gained here. Thank you once again to everyone involved in making this hackathon a resounding success!



India Programming

INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO COGNIZANT

In Q3, SSF facilitated an impactful industrial visit to Cognizant for sixteen beneficiaries from our Scholarship and Skilling programs.

The visit was a resounding success, offering our scholars a firsthand look into the operations, culture, and technological advancements of one of the world's leading IT companies.

During the visit, students engaged in insightful interactions with the Cognizant team, learning about industry practices, workplace dynamics, and emerging trends in technology.

It was an enriching experience that provided them with valuable exposure to the professional world, bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world applications.

This event stands as a testament to our commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for our scholars, equipping them with knowledge and inspiration for their future careers.



COGNIZANT CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE

August 2024 was a defining month for our Scholarship and Skilling Program beneficiaries, as 16 of our brightest students and professors attended the Cognizant Cybersecurity Conference in Chennai, India.

The event proved to be an incredible opportunity for attendees to interact directly with John Wheeler, Chief Security Officer at Cognizant, along with the Senior Vice President and other members of the corporate security leadership team.

These interactions provided invaluable insights into real-world cybersecurity challenges, career pathways, and emerging trends in this ever-evolving field.

A dedicated Cybersecurity Session further enriched the learning experience, offering participants the chance to explore cutting-edge strategies and technologies that are driving innovation in cybersecurity today.



**SHOOTING STARS
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India Programming

Students actively engaged with the leadership team, expressing their thoughts and sharing perspectives on the knowledge gained.

This conference was not just an event but a transformational journey for our beneficiaries, who returned with a broader understanding of the cybersecurity landscape.

Our students also had the unique chance to express their thoughts and share their learning experiences directly with the leadership team, making the event a platform for mutual learning and inspiration.

It stands as a testament to our commitment to bridging the gap between education and industry by providing real-world exposure to our students.

Through such initiatives, we aim to prepare the next generation of leaders and innovators, empowering them with knowledge and the confidence to tackle future challenges.

The event remains a shining highlight of Q3 2024, fostering growth, inspiration, and meaningful industry-academic collaboration.



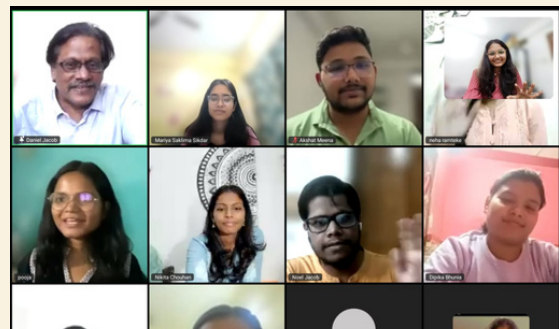
MILT TRAINING

SSF recently organized the MILT Peak Performer Workshop, led by Dr. Daniel Jacob, aimed at enhancing essential leadership, communication, and emotional intelligence skills for MBBS students.

This 8-session program, spanning over four weekends with each session lasting 2 hours, offered an interactive learning experience. Through practical activities and real-time feedback, participants developed crucial skills, such as public speaking, teamwork, and self-confidence.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity for 20+ creative minds to connect with peers and share insights, fostering a supportive environment for growth. Designed to prepare medical students for their demanding careers, the workshop emphasized experiential learning to improve decision-making, stress management, and a positive mindset.

By equipping students to handle pressure effectively, the MILT program supports their personal and professional growth, helping them succeed in the medical field.



**SHOOTING STARS
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Placement Highlights



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

Placement Corner
GAYATHRI R
Graduate Engineer Trainee,
Sobha Constructions, Dubai

In the 4 long years of my journey, SSF has supported me through thick and thin. They have not only supported me through financial aid but also in my own career improvement through aptitude classes, MILT training, and the Hello English Program. I take this moment to thank my donor, who has been consistently encouraging me throughout my college journey and helped me succeed in this placement opportunity.

— ECE Student at Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, Batch - 2024



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

Placement Corner
BALAMURUGAN R
Software engineer junior Intern,
Ultramain, Coimbatore.

SSF and My donor helped and mentored me to complete my UG degree. Their mentorship programs and other trainings have helped me get this job.

Without your help this job placement wouldn't be possible. I would like to say my soulful thanks to SSF and my donor .

— CSE Student at Kongu Engineering College, Erode, Batch - 2024



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

Placement Corner
YOGESHKUMAR G
SAP Analyst,
Deloitte.

SSF helped me by financially for my education. The aptitude training which was given by SSF very useful to my placement. I'm truly grateful to my donor and Shooting Stars Foundation for gracing me with this wonderful opportunity to serve back to the community.

— Mechanical Engineering Student at Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, Batch - 2024



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

Placement Corner
DINESH V
Trainee Security Engineer
AURISEG

SSFs helped me complete my education and land in a perfect job that will shape my career well with their external trainings. Many thanks to my donor for sponsoring my education.

— CSE Student at P.A College of Engineering And Technology, Pollachi, Coimbatore, Batch - 2024



*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
SSF Family Meet	Shooting Stars employee's, Scholars and Board Members	Chenna, India	October 5, 2024
IBM Z Datathon	College Students Internationally	Chennai, Bangalore, London, Germany, South Africa	October 19, 2024
SKILLING Graduation ceremony	Singar Skilling Students	Chennai, India	October 20, 2024
Fremont Donor Event	SSF Donors and Board Members	Fremont, CA	November 16, 2024
Bioinformatics Camp	Rising 9th - 12th grade students	Online	November 2-11, 2024
All India Women ONLY Startathon	College Students	Online	January 16, 2025





SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

WANT TO BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER?

Email us at: support@sstarsfoundation.org



@shootingstarsorg



@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc



@support@sstarsfoundation.org

PARTNER WITH SSF



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

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



Partners



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>