

Dear Colleagues,

With the recent BLM movement, one of the actionable items that had arisen from several of us taking a knee at the enslaved workers memorial a few weeks ago was to help identify and systematically help increase STEM engagement in URM/POC communities at the Elementary School Level.

With COVID and the question of home vs. in school teaching, a major concern has been how this will worsen disparities in families who already have less in-home educational resources. We have been working with the Charlottesville City Schools to help brainstorm and have identified a solution to this need by planning the delivery of home STEM boxes (basic supplies such as Measuring Tape, Scissors, Thermometer, Spring Scale Masking Tape, Scotch Tape, Duct Tape, Measuring Cups).

Please help us raise funds for this project, our goal is \$30,000 which will cover supplies for children from all SIX Cville City Schools for the ENTIRE year!

GoFundMe link: <https://gf.me/u/ygbh85>

We hope to disseminate this widely so please feel free to share.

Here are the details behind the endeavor:

STEM education is an integral part of an elementary student's development. When students come to STEM labs in each of their schools they can choose from many tools and materials to complete their projects. When learning transitioned to the home it was apparent access to those same tools and materials was unequal and that the projects and challenges needed to be adjusted. The STEM team has determined that with a few materials the students can complete a wide range of projects and challenges. Tools and materials provided by this project supplemented with materials from each school will provide a robust STEM box for each student. With each student receiving a STEM box their teachers can be sure every student has an equal opportunity to engage with the STEM curriculum and attain the same learning outcomes.