



BAKER COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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Baker County Education Foundation Receives AT&T *Full STEAM Ahead for Florida's Future* Grant to Fund Learning Innovation

Students at Baker County Middle School will benefit from a statewide investment by AT&T this year, one that seeks to engage students who may have fallen behind during the pandemic as well as those in underserved communities, families needing support with distance learning and high school students seeking to jump start their STEM careers through industry certifications.

For the 12th consecutive year, AT&T is working with the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations](#) (Consortium) to support hands-on learning opportunities. 19 separate projects organized and funded through Consortium member local education foundations will re-engage students who have gotten behind in academics and/or are in underserved communities through hands-on STEAM enrichment activities, student-led digital divide support or increasing CTE certification completion.

The Baker County Middle School received an AT&T Full STEAM Ahead Grant entitled Soaring Through Science. This grant helps students work on a variety of hands-on, engaging science lessons designed to enhance the Nature of Science, Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth/Space Science standards in grades 6-9. By implementing these hands-on applications with our students, we will be serving students who have gotten behind in academics. The pandemic affected our entire way of life at Baker County Middle School. Students and teachers have been impacted by school closure, virtual learning, and loss of instructional momentum. By bringing science to life through these STEM activities, we have designed projects to engage, encourage, and re-energize learning. This grant began in January and will end in May, 2022

“We’re eager to re-engage students who may have fallen behind over the past year by providing opportunities for them to experience the relevance of STEM curriculum in the world of work, through hands-on learning and career certification programs,” said Joe York, President, AT&T Florida. “We’ve all learned how important it

is to make sure families in underserved communities have support for digital learning at home so their children have the opportunity to accelerate their education, and we're interested in supporting local efforts in that area as well."

This year's statewide grant brings the total investment by AT&T over eleven years to more than \$1 million. More than 79,000 students have been directly impacted through 469 projects involving 954 local workplace partners throughout Florida.

About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. The company's signature philanthropic initiative, [AT&T Aspire](#), drives innovation in education to promote student success in school and beyond. With a financial commitment of \$500 million since 2008, AT&T is leveraging technology, relationships and social innovation to help all students make their biggest dreams a reality.

About the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations:

The Consortium is the membership organization for Florida's school district-wide local education foundations. Established in 1987, the Consortium connects individuals, organizations, and financial resources to build the capacity and effectiveness of Florida's local education foundations. Together, Consortium members raise more than \$83 million annually for a variety of locally driven initiatives and are led by 1,200 board members, 80% of whom are local business and community leaders working in partnership with school district leaders. The Consortium manages the nation's only 1:1 legislative match for education foundation initiatives and a variety of privately funded grant programs. To learn more about the Consortium or connect with any member local education foundation, visit <https://educationfoundationsfl.org>.