

LEF *report*

EDUCATE | ENRICH | EMPOWER

SEEKING PROGRAMS

Do you have a skill to teach?
Or aware of a great program to bring to our youth? LEF is seeking to fund enrichment programming in the following areas:

- *STEM (sciences, technology, engineering, math)*
- *Multiculturalism*
- *Business & Entrepreneurship*
- *Civics & Debate*
- *Creative Writing & Literacy*

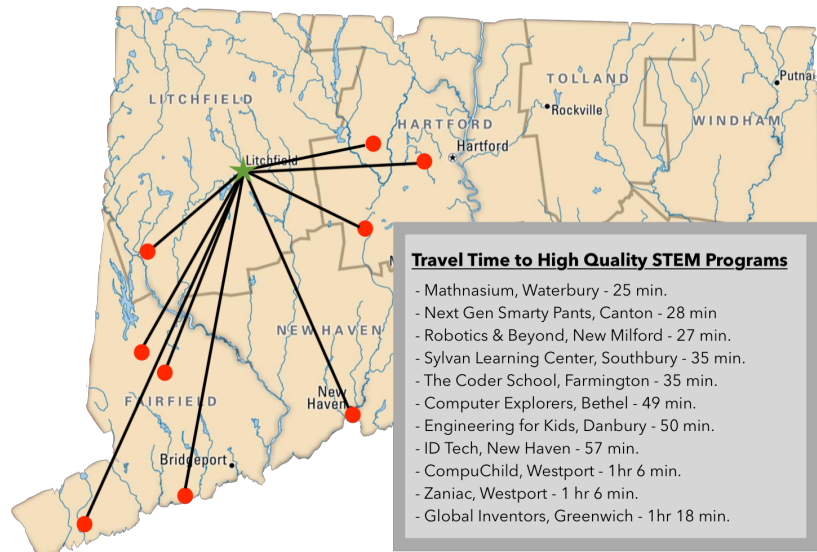
Visit www.LEFforStudents.org to learn how to apply for a

HOW TO HELP

LEF seeks donations from individuals, businesses and foundations to support its mission. Volunteers are also needed to serve on committees and the board. Visit www.LEFforStudents.org to donate or connect with our team.



Educate + Enrich = Empower



Is Litchfield County a STEM Desert?

The impact of students living in STEM deserts will be reflected in college admissions and job prospects

According to US News & World Report, by 2020, almost two-thirds of all jobs will require education that is supported by the critical thinking and problem-solving skills learned in math and science. In the same period, almost as many jobs will require basic literacy in science, technology, engineering & math (STEM).

Yet, access to in-depth STEM learning is unevenly distributed. Millions of students across the country live in what is called STEM deserts – communities, mostly in urban and rural areas, without access to rigorous and engaging STEM programs.

While most schools expose children to all areas of STEM, many of our youth must travel an hour or more to attend robust, focused after-school classes in robotics, coding and engineering. Proximity to math tutoring services is also a challenge.

LEF is working to address this inequity and ensure every student has the opportunity to gain knowledge in these important subject areas closer to home. We are seeking grant applications for after-school STEM classes taught by highly trained teachers for all age levels. Visit www.LEFforStudents.org to learn more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ February 26, 2019
LEF and OWL Spelling Bee
- ★ March 23, 2019
Retro Dodgeball Tournament with Two Old Dads, Litchfield High School, proceeds benefiting LEF.
- ★ April 6, 2019
Minds in Motion Enrichment Workshops in collaboration with CT Association for the Gifted, Litchfield High School.

2017-18 GRANTS AWARDED

- "Celebrate Litchfield" Composer Project - \$9,800
- Family Book Club - \$1,750
- Kids' Running Club - \$1,584
- Creative Writing Club - \$1,500
- OWL Library Summer 2018 "Literacy Program" - \$1,100
- Litchfield Enrichment Academy - \$1,000
- ASAP! Theater Club - \$695
- Spelling Club/Spelling Bee with OWL Library - \$678
- STEM Mobile Maker Space - \$625
- Themed Classroom Manipulatives for School on the Green - \$550
- Litchfield Student Council - \$400
- Mindfulness Programming & Tools - \$324

LEF in Action:

Celebrate Litchfield! Composer Project

Litchfield Education Foundation funds several important enrichment programs for students each year. Among the most exciting and unique projects from 2017-18 was: "Celebrate Litchfield! Composer Project."

Dozens of band and chorus students from Litchfield Middle School and High School enjoyed the incredible opportunity to work directly with Grammy-winning saxophonist and bandleader, Mr. Paul Winter, to compose an original piece of music to celebrate Litchfield. Throughout the school year, Mr. Winter met regularly with music teachers and students to awaken creative potential through adventures in spontaneous, collective sound-play.

The result: A four-part composition called "The Dreams of Citizens" presented at the Spring 2018 Concert, and certainly a musical piece to be remembered!

Litchfield Education Foundation was pleased to support 100% of this project with a \$9,800 grant. \$5,000 of the grant award was an earmarked donation from an anonymous resident of Litchfield County who favored supporting Performance Arts in Litchfield's schools.

Are you interested in bringing more innovative arts opportunities to area children? Reach out to us at www.LEFforStudents.org!



Photo Credit: ASAP!