

CONTACT:

Stacy Skiavo

c: 724-757-6365

stacy@blenderadv.com



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way and Arconic Foundation Partner to Support Student Success

Five-year, \$1 million grant to United Way addresses short-term gaps, drives STEM education

PITTSBURGH (September 23, 2020) – To make an impact in the place it calls home, Arconic Foundation has made a five-year, \$1 million grant to United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Through this grant, Arconic Foundation seeks to fuel STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities in high-need local schools and address virtual programming and critical basic needs across Pittsburgh.

“Arconic Foundation is committed to the success of students throughout Pittsburgh,” said Bobbi Watt Geer, President and CEO of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. “When the pandemic disrupted initial plans, they quickly adapted, searching for innovative, meaningful ways to maximize impact on the children in our community and fill the gaps of urgent basic needs right now, while also ensuring children’s success in school for the future.”

The five-year partnership between Arconic Foundation and United Way is designed to provide short-term solutions to educational issues caused by the pandemic, as well as long-term activities to help local children better understand – and develop a passion for – STEM subjects, including a foundation of problem-solving skills.

The grant is funding two innovative programs, United Way’s Be STEMtacular, powered by Arconic Foundation, and the Arconic Foundation School Champion initiative.

United Way’s Be STEMtacular is a series of hands-on events designed to engage girls in STEM education and inspire pursuits of STEM careers. These virtual activities, to be held via partnership with YWCA and other community organizations, include a book club for middle school girls exploring stories about women in STEM fields, a career café that invites girls across the region to participate in four virtual events highlighting women in STEM professions and a creative writing and drawing workshop.

The Arconic Foundation School Champion program provides basic needs, technology assistance and STEM-focused support in three high-need Pittsburgh Public Schools, one of which is Pittsburgh Milliones University Prep 9-12 (UPrep). The initiative includes technology support for students, an attendance challenge, and college and career preparation for every student in the school.

“Now more than ever, both schools and students face issues related to limited resources. Partnering with United Way is fundamental to building the tools needed for a robust STEM education and inspiring local youth,” said Diana Toman, President of Arconic Foundation and Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of Arconic. “At Arconic Foundation, we are focused on education and workforce development in the communities where we work and live, and this partnership embodies our commitment to that mission. We are honored to provide the support Pittsburgh students need to further their skills and knowledge despite setbacks caused by the pandemic.”

The innovative programs from the Arconic Foundation/United Way partnership are expected to positively impact the lives of more than 6,000 youth throughout the region over the next five years.

About Arconic Foundation - Arconic Foundation partners with nonprofit and community organizations to strengthen its communities by enhancing education through skill-building learning experiences, promoting environmental sustainability, and advancing social equity. Arconic Foundation is independently endowed with assets of approximately \$150 million and invests in the communities of Arconic Corporation – a leading provider of aluminum products that advance the ground transportation, aerospace, industrial, packaging and building and construction markets.

About United Way of Southwestern PA – United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, serving Allegheny, Butler, Westmoreland, Fayette and Armstrong counties, leads and mobilizes the caring power of individuals, the business community and organizations to help local people in need measurably improve their lives. United Way creates long-lasting change for the betterment of our community.

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