



For Immediate Release
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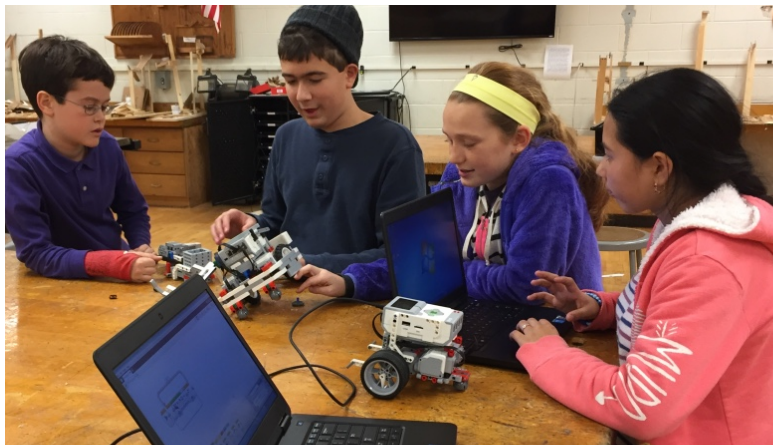
STEM Alliance Receives \$5,000 Grant from The Black & Veatch Foundation for Robotics and Girl-Focused STEM Programs

The STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck received a \$5,000 grant from The Black & Veatch Foundation to fund competitive and non-competitive robotics programs starting as early as 4th grade as well as to expand Girls in STEM program development.

The STEM Alliance has prioritized robotics education based upon the FIRST robotics league developed by renowned Segway inventor Dean Kamen. Robotics not only teaches coding and engineering but also gives equal weight to the importance of team work, public speaking and community service. Students use these skills to develop innovative solutions to modern day problems.

“Robotics and coding are just the vehicle through which FIRST teaches students their core values: team work, student-centered problem solving, mutual respect in the form of ‘gracious professionalism,’ and having fun,” said Margaret Käufer, president of the STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck. “Black & Veatch’s support of the STEM Alliance’s Robotics initiatives provides for direct technology education while simultaneously demanding that students learn how to creatively apply interdisciplinary STEM knowledge to solve problems.”

This grant deepens the STEM Alliance’s current middle school team by providing additional equipment as well as extending the team program into the elementary level. It also creates a pipeline of interested students who can follow a district wide robotics program all the way up to the high school level team. With this funding, the Alliance can engage more coaches in leading teams, workshops and clubs. Vacation workshops such as the Alliance’s all-girls robotics intensive, *Snap n’ Chat Robot Make-Overs*, are critical to the growth and diversification of robotics in the Mamaroneck School District.



Members of the Hommocks Roaring Robots, a *FIRST* Lego League robotics team run by the STEM Alliance, collaborate on their robot design as they prepare for their first competition of the 2016-17 season.
Photo Credit: Jill Bock

About STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck: The STEM Alliance is a grass roots, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing K-12 STEM education and enrichment initiatives to benefit students, parents and educators in our schools and community. The STEM Alliance's vision is to serve as a network that connects communities to STEM skills as a means of solving problems and fostering innovation.

For more info: www.lmstemalliance.org

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About Black & Veatch: Black & Veatch is an employee-owned, global leader in building critical human infrastructure in Energy, Water, Telecommunications and Government Services. Since 1915, they have helped clients improve the lives of people in over 100 countries through consulting, engineering, construction, operations and program management. Revenues in 2015 were US\$3 billion. For more info, visit www.bv.com.

About The Black & Veatch Foundation: The Black & Veatch Foundation coordinates their professionals' charitable involvement in, and donations to, organizations and programs worldwide. The Foundation focuses its efforts on improving access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education through their Grow STEM Initiative. Additional efforts focus on Humanitarian Aid and Signature Programs.

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