

STEMOVATION



WHAT

STEMOVATION supports juniors and seniors in the STEM and Bio-Medical Allied Health (BMAH) Magnet programs at AACPS. Each year, juniors in these programs complete a Community Challenge project, usually in pairs or teams. Often, these Community Challenges launch students' senior Capstone Projects, which are heavily weighted in their grade average. There are always a handful of exceptional projects that need additional support outside of the district's means, either through funding or direct mentorship from an industry professional.



STEMOVATION, a newly-developed program that will be supported by the FMA and AAEDC, provides an opportunity for students to compete for these resources by creating a proposal and budget to present to a panel of industry experts. STEMOVATION aims to provide students the funding and human capital they need to develop innovative products, spur entrepreneurial spirit and keep young talent in Anne Arundel County. The hope is that the project will instill a desire by the participating students to return/remain in the county and bring new business and resources for the region.

WHY

There is a great need for STEM professionals across the nation – and Maryland is no exception to this. With 20 military facilities and 60 federal agencies stationed in Maryland, as well as a significant number of private sector bio-health and cybersecurity organizations, there is a high demand for professionals with skills that can help ensure the safety and security of the United States. STEMOVATION provides secondary students the opportunity to dive more deeply into their STEM or BMAH related interests and connects them to a network of local professionals ready to expose students to the career opportunities in their home state.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are a number of ways that FMA members can support STEMOVATION:

- ★ **Sponsor:** As a sponsor of a STEMOVATION project, an FMA member would provide funding that students need to develop their idea into a real-world solution. This funding would cover expenses, which include but are not limited to purchasing materials, project development costs and/or publishing costs.
- ★ **Mentor:** As a mentor of a STEMOVATION project, FMA participants would lend time and expertise to students to help guide them to a viable solution or end-product. Most mentors will be expected to meet with their students approximately once per week (usually online) for at least 9 weeks, but teams are quite flexible and eager to work around the schedule of an outside expert.
- ★ **Internship Opportunity:** This option is available for students with a project that would be supported by a comprehensive & immersive experience in a specific field of study, which would contribute to the completion of their project. In this role, internship opportunities would be designed to support the proposed project, then offered and monitored through the AACPS Internship Portal.
- ★ **Advisor/Panelist:** As an advisor/panelist, the supporting company would be represented as a member of the advisory board/judging panel. The expertise from the participants would be critical to the success of the initiative, by providing insight and evaluation of the projects presented by the students, along with assessment of the potential success of the proposed project and budget requirements. This would typically be a once or twice per year commitment to attend a set of (virtual) meetings to review the proposals and make awards.



For more information about the Fort Meade Alliance Foundation visit www.ftmeadealliancefoundation.org or call 410.850.4940