



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bayer Invests Over \$400,000 in STEM Education and Workforce Development in Greater Houston

As demand grows in Greater Houston for more skilled and diverse STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workers, Bayer Corporation is meeting the challenge by investing more than \$400,000 to strengthen STEM education and create a continuous STEM education-to-workforce pipeline in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) with grants and scholarships targeted to middle and high schools.

Through its philanthropic arm, the Bayer USA Foundation, Bayer is awarding a \$386,000 grant to the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) to implement its Laying the Foundation teacher training program in GCCISD junior high and high schools. Laying the Foundation aims to increase the number of high school students succeeding in advanced placement (AP) math and science courses through enhanced teacher training. The program will provide all 116 of GCCISD's sixth through 12th grade science and math teachers with high quality content-based training that strengthens their instruction. The program has the potential to benefit the district's current 22,000 students and many more in years to come.

In addition to the NMSI grant, Bayer MaterialScience, whose largest U.S. manufacturing plant is strategically positioned in Baytown, is awarding \$25,000 in scholarships, coupled with paid internships, to seven GCCISD high school graduates who plan to pursue manufacturing careers in engineering, process operations, maintenance and instrumentation, among others. Scholarships for the district will then be awarded annually thereafter as part of Bayer's commitment to the STEM education-to-workforce pipeline.

Dr. Mae C. Jemison, a Houston resident who made history in 1992 as the nation's first African-American female astronaut to orbit the Earth, joined Bayer, NMSI and GCCISD officials at Horace Mann Junior High school to make the announcement. Dr. Jemison, who serves as national spokesperson for Bayer's Presidential award-winning *Making Science Make Sense*® initiative, also spent the day with GCCISD sixth-graders igniting their curiosity by sharing science, experiments and stories about her life.

"This major investment by Bayer advances our ongoing commitment to improving both STEM education and diversity – and provides high-paying, high-skilled STEM jobs for our local community," said Rod Herrick, Vice President and Site Manager, Bayer Baytown, Industrial Park, Bayer MaterialScience, LLC. "Bayer has created an innovative and seamless STEM education pipeline beginning in elementary school with our *Making Science Make Sense* program and progressing on through junior and high school with NMSI's College Readiness program. Then, at the college and university levels, our community college process technology partnerships and four-year engineering programs and internships advance successful students into the workplace."

"And doing so," adds Herrick, "at a time when demand for skilled STEM workers of all races, ethnicities and genders is growing exponentially."

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, 2012 was Houston's best year for job creation in more than two decades, with chemicals manufacturing adding 3,000 jobs over the last three years. In the next two to three years, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership projects the Southeast Texas chemical industry will need to add some 20,000 skilled workers as the natural gas industry continues to expand.



Goose Creek CISD students and teachers cheer as Rod Herrick (right), vice president and site manager of the Bayer Baytown Industrial Park, and Sarah Toulouse (third from right), U.S. donations officer and executive director of the Bayer USA Foundation, present a check in the amount of \$386,160.00 to Kathryn Allen (left), director of development for the National Math and Science Initiative, to be used to implement the Laying the Foundation science and math teacher training program in Goose Creek CISD junior schools and high schools. Dr. Mae Jemison (third from left), former NASA astronaut, spoke to students and helped Bayer volunteers facilitate science experiments at Horace Mann Junior School with 6th grade students from all five junior schools. Also pictured are Jenice Coffey, Goose Creek CISD Board member (second from left) and Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. View photo gallery [here](#).

"We are grateful to Bayer for its generosity, its longtime support of the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District and for providing our students with such extraordinary opportunities," said GCCISD Superintendent Dr. Salvador Cavazos. "Through NMSI's teacher training program and the manufacturing scholarships and internships, Bayer is ensuring our students have the academic foundation – and the real world experience -- they need to be college and career ready."

"At NMSI, we know that student success in STEM lies, in large part, with excellent teaching," said Gregg Fleisher, Chief Academic Officer, and NMSI. "Our Laying the Foundation teacher training program provides teachers the rigorous professional development that ultimately levels the playing field and promotes STEM achievement among all students."

"Today, more than ever, with the changing demographics in Houston, we must ensure that more women, African Americans, Hispanics and American Indians know about the robust work and career opportunities in STEM fields and we also need to ensure support and available pathways for education and training for these jobs," Dr. Jemison said. "That's what this new Bayer program is seeking to do – making students and others aware that the vast majority of high paying STEM jobs are filled by two or four year degree graduates and preparing them for those jobs."

"And as important, even for those students who do not pursue STEM careers, the Bayer programs provide the critical science literacy foundation needed to succeed in a world steeped in science and technology."



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