



# 2021

## Annual Report

Fiscal Year:  
2021 - 2022





# Message from Wendy

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Another year in the books! Students, educators, staff, and volunteers have learned how to adapt and practice resilience over the past couple of years. The 2021-22 school year created challenges for STEMblazers as we continued to navigate various COVID 19 protocols. Each one of our team members, including, Teacher Sponsors, Chapter Leaders, and Guest Speakers, stepped up to provide continued support as we all worked together, most often in “real time”, to ensure students had as many opportunities as possible to meet and become inspired by incredible women in STEM. As I reflect on the past two years, I continue to draw inspiration from our passion-fueled community.

I’m so proud to share that STEMblazers is eight years strong and has served 1300+ students! It has been an honor and pleasure to serve so many amazing girls as middle school and high school students and watch them grow. I continue to be in awe of these incredible young women as they rise and watch who they become. STEMblazers understands the need for ongoing support, and we have expanded our programs to include our alumni as they persist in STEM post-secondary education. As studies have shown, students, especially young women, are in need of continued mentorship while pursuing their education and careers in STEM. STEMblazers has witnessed this first-hand with many first and second-year University students carrying a rigorous course load and often found themselves as the only female student or the only person of color in their classes. Some of our first-generation alumni overcame situations where they were bullied and without resources or experienced parents to help them navigate these challenges. I am determined, along with our entire organization, to help each and every one of our alumni to connect to resources and the support they need to rise!

In addition to building out our alumni program, STEMblazers continues to serve 14 middle school and five high school chapters. In addition, I’m excited to share that [STEMblazers launched](#)

[a podcast](#) in 2021, expanding the reach of the STEMblazers experience to all girls and young women no matter where they are in the world. The STEMblazers Podcast is hosted by our alumni who share their own thoughts and experiences as young women persisting in STEM to cultivate engaging conversations. This podcast is truly inspiring!

With all the great things happening at STEMblazers, this past Fiscal Year has created some financial challenges, but I can say with great confidence that our leadership team has done an incredible job of stabilizing our foundation and ensuring a pathway forward to sustain and build our programs. With that said, there is so much to be excited about moving onward. Together with our Corporate Partners, we are creating a more robust mentorship program and building out internship opportunities. STEMblazers is committed to directing young women into a workforce pipeline provided by our partners. True to our mission, STEMblazers is inspiring girls to visualize themselves in STEM and creating entry points for our alumni into various industries where they will increase diversity and innovation and ultimately close the gender gap.

As this fiscal year comes to a close, I reflect on our growth as an organization. Growth is imperative to remain creative and to provide an impactful program that transcends. It is an honor to serve the girls and young women in our STEMblazers community, and I am blessed to work with our board and alongside our passionate-fueled community of partners who continue to create innovative opportunities for the next generation of women in STEM. I am hopeful and excited for the coming year!

Wendy

# OUTCOMES

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Growth is imperative to remain creative and to provide an impactful program that transcends.

19  
chapters



42%



of schools serving underserved communities

318

girls served in 2021-22



61%

of girls of color served



12

podcast episodes in Season 3



Teachers/Educators who supported our programs in 2021-22

20



## ALUMNI

33



officially recorded alumni

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60%



remain engaged

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We have

85%

of alumni pursuing STEM degrees/careers

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All alumni are connected with internship & scholarship opportunities

# HONORS AND AWARDS

## 2021 CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE WINNERS: SOCIAL IMPACT, MISSION MINDED, & SMALL BUT MIGHTY

The Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce's Champions of Change Awards focuses on recognizing organizations of various sizes that are actively and strategically advancing women in business through their commitment to creating inclusive, supportive, and empowering cultures.



## LAURA JAIME: WICT ROCKY MOUNTAIN - YOUNG PERSON TO WATCH AWARD 2022

Laura Jaime, current Latina high school member; 11th grade at DSST College View HS; aspiring oncologist or industrial engineer



# PROGRAMS: 19 CHAPTERS TOTAL

## 5 HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTERS



\*DSST  
College View  
High School



\*DSST  
Montview  
High School



\*Northglenn  
High School



South Metro  
"region"



Sky View  
Academy

## FUN FACT

#1



We had 6  
field trips

# PROGRAMS: 19 CHAPTERS TOTAL

## 14 MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAPTERS



\*North Arvada Middle School



West Middle School



Infinity Middle School



Thunder Ridge Middle School



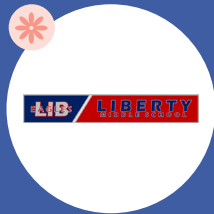
\*Laredo Middle School



Elevation  
online school, online  
STEMblazers program



\*Prairie Middle School



Liberty Middle School



Campus Middle School



Challenge



Fox Ridge Middle School



Sky Vista Middle School



\*Horizon Middle School



Falcon Creek Middle School

\*Underserved communities



SPRING 2021



Fall 2022

## FUN FACT

#2

South Metro  
is the longest  
running chapter

# PROGRAMS

THE PODCAST  
LAUNCHED IN  
2021 AND HAS  
RELEASED



# 03

SEASONS

## PODCAST

Our podcast provides a STEMblazers experience for an audience no matter where they live in the world. This is our way to reach beyond the classroom and Colorado to inspire the next generation of young women in STEM.

Producer: Emily Fitzgerald 

Hosts: STEMblazers Alumni  
(2 each season); builds their resume,  
networking contacts, and skills!



Here is a [LINK](#) to our  
podcast found on most  
podcast platforms. 



# VOLUNTEERS

+528 hrs

68 Guest Speakers



368 hrs

03

Advisory Board Members

04

Board Members

## FUN FACT

STEMblazers has had 1 alumna at the board level for the past 4 years.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

1610

78

General Support / Event Volunteers

21

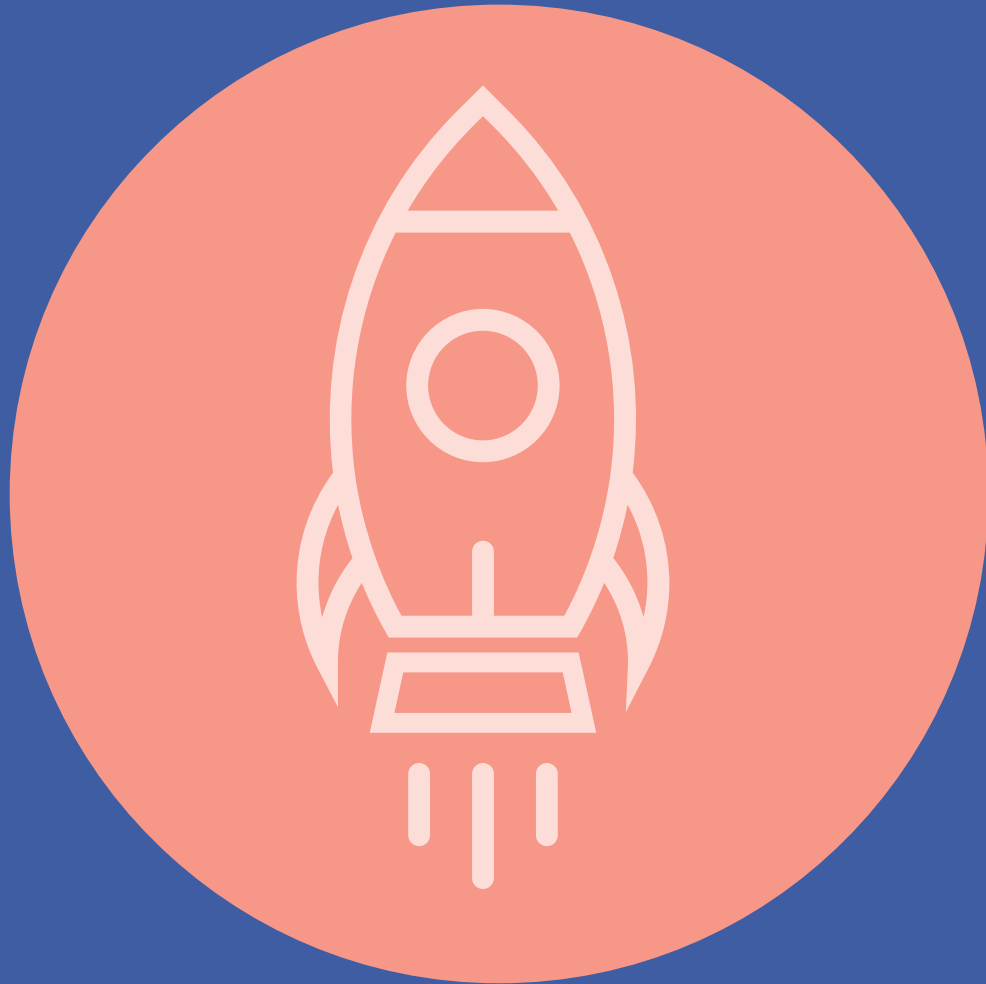
Mentors / Chapter Facilitators



Guest Speakers representing 106 careers



# IMPACT



# girls served to reach our  
goal of 1 million by 2040:

13000

Madeline Pool,  
Alumna of STEMblazers and  
Season 3 Podcast Co-Host

**“CURRENTLY, I AM A SOPHOMORE AT COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES STUDYING DESIGN ENGINEERING WITH A FOCUS AREA IN BIOMECHANICS. THIS INTERESTED ME BECAUSE I AM A BIG PICTURE TYPE OF PERSON, I ENJOY PROBLEM-SOLVING AND SEEING A SOLUTION COME TOGETHER THROUGH TRIAL AND ERROR, HARD WORK, AND DEDICATION. I ALSO RUN THE CREATIVE ARTS CLUB ON CAMPUS SINCE I LOVE ART AND STEM.**

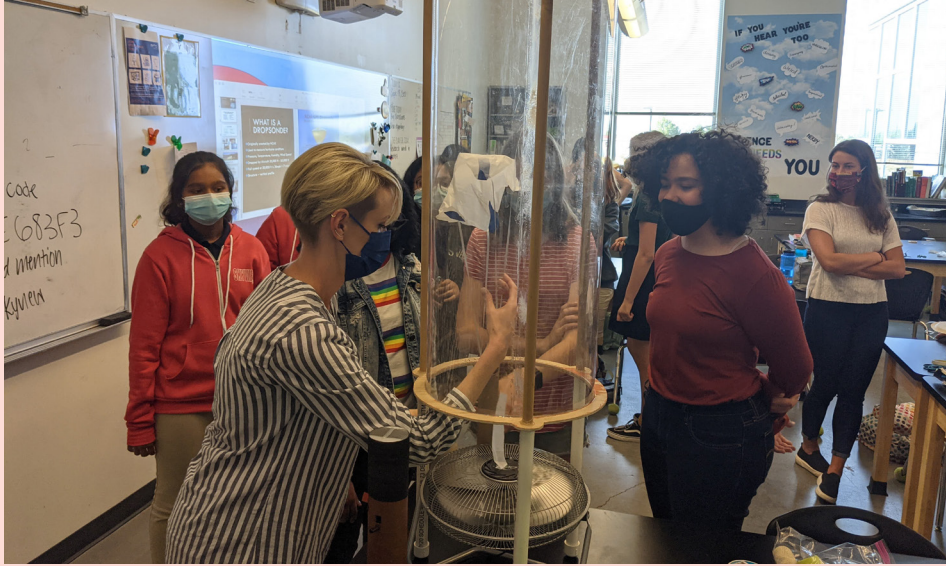
**I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT STEMBLAZERS; EVER SINCE I MET WENDY (MERCHANT) AND VANESSA (MARTIN WEGRYN), MY LIFE HAS CHANGED SO MUCH FOR THE BETTER. I HAVE MET SO MANY AMAZING WOMEN FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS DURING MY TIME AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER, AND I WAS INSPIRED TO PURSUE A CAREER IN STEM. I FEEL SO LUCKY TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT PLACES LIKE LOCKHEED MARTIN, 3D SYSTEMS, AND MORE; THESE AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES HAVE GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH, KNOWLEDGE, AND CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE MY AMBITIONS.**

**I AM SO GLAD TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO SUPPORT STEMBLAZERS AS AN ALUMNUS BY HOSTING OUR PODCAST! IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A PODCAST, NOW YOU DO! IT'S ON SPOTIFY, SO GO LISTEN TO THE 1ST TWO SEASONS, AND THE 3RD SEASON COMES OUT IN JANUARY OF 2022.**

**IN THE PODCAST, JO FUCHS AND I INTERVIEW A NEW GUEST EVERY EPISODE; WE DISCUSS CAREER CHALLENGES, AND PERSONAL INTERESTS AND HAVE A LOT OF FUN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL REQUIRED TO WORK IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES. IT'S SUCH AN AMAZING TIME, AND IT IS SO ENCOURAGING TO TALK TO REAL WOMEN WHO HAVE FACED CHALLENGES IN THEIR CAREERS AND OVERCOME THEM. I FEEL SO MOVED BY THEIR STORIES, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO TELLING MY OWN ONE DAY.**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUPPORTING STEMBLAZERS, THIS IS A WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION THAT TOUCHES THE LIVES OF SO MANY GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN, AND I HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER.”**

# IMPACT



**“JUST KNOW THAT EVERYTHING YOU ARE DOING, ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR, IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE. [BECAUSE OF STEMBLAZERS] THERE IS A DIFFERENT ACCESS POINT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP IN AND SEE A NEW PATH OR SEE DIFFERENT PATHWAYS TO BE ABLE TO REACH NEW GOALS. WE’VE SEEN IT, AND WE’VE EXPERIENCED IT. ON BEHALF OF CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT, WE ARE SO EXCITED TO CONTINUE AND GROW THIS PARTNERSHIP AND TO BRING STEMBLAZERS TO AS MANY YOUNG WOMEN AS WE CAN.”**

Alberto García Ortiz,  
Director of Culture and Community Engagement,  
Cherry Creek School District

# CORPORATE PARTNERS



BCER

Burns  
& McDonnell

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CORE  
Consultants



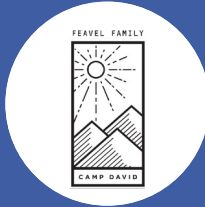
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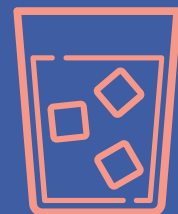
Western  
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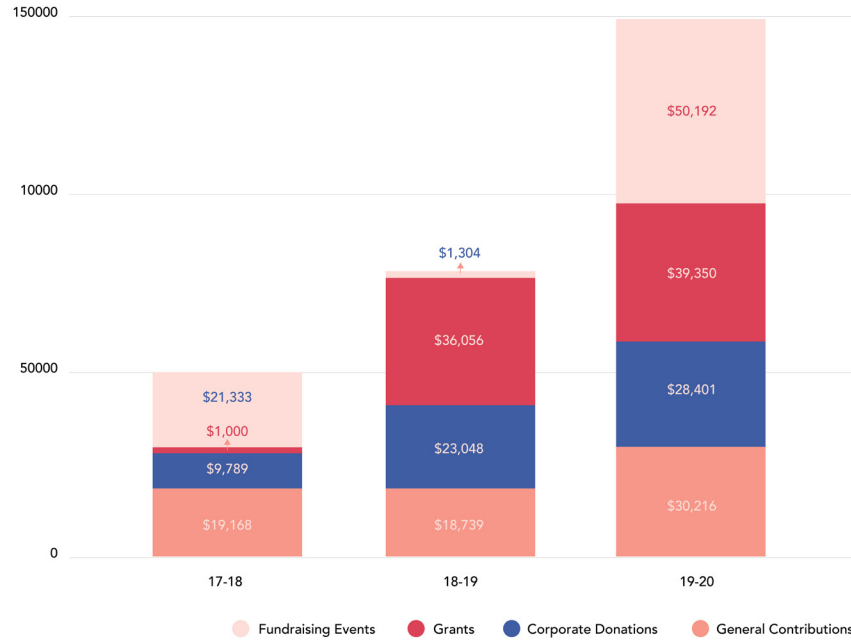
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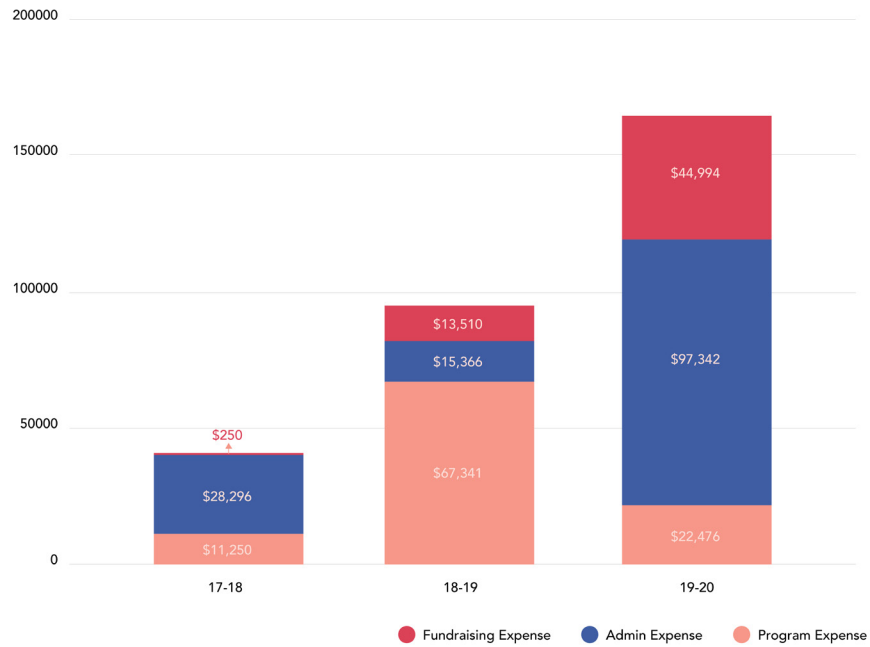
As always, thank you to all of the individual donors for their monetary contributions. Every penny gets us closer to our goal of reaching 1 million girls and inspire them to pursue a career in STEM.

# FINANCIALS

## Income Stream Comparison



## Expense Type Comparison



# FINANCIALS

