

**MAKING AN
IMPACT**

AIAA Foundation Classroom Grant Program

The AIAA Foundation Classroom Grant program provides opportunities for teachers to encourage and support STEM activities in their classrooms. Since the program started in 1998, more than 1,300 grants have been awarded, creating rewarding activities for more than 155,000 students in the classroom. Each school year, grants of up to \$500 are awarded to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning.

Each grant supports a clear connection to STEM subjects with an emphasis on aerospace. Applicants must be current AIAA Educator Associate Member (and the membership is free!), and no more than two grants will be supported

per school per year. Grant requests have funding STEM demonstration kits and supplies, software, and more.

“I so appreciate the models I have been able to purchase with AIAA Foundation Classroom Grants,” said Kati Searcy, a teacher at New Prospect Elementary School in Alpharetta, Georgia, and an AIAA Educator Associate Member. “They say ‘a picture is worth a 1,000 words.’ If that’s the case, 3-D models are worth a million words!”

“In our classroom, we have models of the Shuttle Transportation System, the Saturn V rocket, the Orion space capsule, and the Apollo lunar lander. The students love gently touching these models, looking

at the details, and comparing/contrasting them. Thank you for your generous funding — you are helping to inspire the next generation of space explorers.”

As a NASA Solar System Ambassador, Searcy takes the models on the road with her when she presents programs to groups outside of her classroom and school.

“I have gone to several other schools to share space-focused presentations. This summer, I will be presenting at several library summer book club programs.”

Kaci Heins, a former teacher at Northland Preparatory Academy and an AIAA Educator Associate Member, added “As an educator, AIAA has been an amazing resource for professional development workshops and grants to enrich classroom curriculum. Students have launched rockets hundreds of feet into the air and soldered circuit boards for the underwater remotely operated vehicles. My hope is to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, and AIAA helped me to provide those meaningful experiences in the formal classroom and now the informal science center classrooms at Space Center Houston.”

Join us as we continue to inspire teachers and students to advance aerospace by giving to the AIAA Foundation. For more information and to give, please visit www.aiaafoundation.org. If you are a teacher and would like to become an AIAA Educator Associate Member, please visit www.aiaa.org/educator.

