

# A Proposed Project with the Fort Myers/ Cape Coral Communities





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# Creating a Greater Future for our Students, School, and Community



## Supporting STEM learning is an investment in our future.

In the past, employers hired based on an applicant's knowledge to contribute. However, all of that changed in January of 2007 when Steve Jobs introduced the first cell phone equipped with an internet browser and its now famous Siri interface. Since then, massive amounts of information are now available at our fingertips, and the term "skilled worker" has changed forever.

With the rise of machine learning, artificial intelligence and 5G, an increasing share of jobs will require a background in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM), and those with strong experience will find themselves at the center of our new economy. According to the US Department of Labor, STEM trained workers will be required to fill at least 20% of all new jobs over the next 10 years. Tomorrow's STEM worker must be fluent with next generation technology, possess 21<sup>st</sup> century soft skills, and be capable to think critically in order to access and process vast amounts of real-time information.

To meet this challenge, I Will Mentor Foundation must rapidly adapt our learning environments to ensure we equip our students with the skills they need to meet this new demand for STEM careers.

"The U.S. needs 1 million more STEM professionals over the next decade than it is projected to produce at the current rate."

**National Math & Science Initiative**



## Together, we can make a difference.

I Will Mentor Foundation desires to partner with Creative Learning Systems and build a Mobile SmartLab, which will provide underserved students in South Florida with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to excel in STEM fields, but financial resources are needed. With your support, students will be exposed to sustainable career paths and the supply of STEM workers within our community will increase. Preliminary estimates set the total cost of this project at approximately \$175,000

**Your investment in our proposed SmartLab is designed to deliver the following student outcomes:**

### Increased student engagement with purposeful technologies

Gallup Corporation surveys approximately a million students every year. The 2016 survey found that only half of adolescents feel engaged in school and 20% are actively *disengaged*. About 10% are classified as both *disengaged and discouraged*. Engagement levels consistently decrease as students get older – finally bottoming out in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Sadly, learning levels are tied directly to engagement levels.

Fortunately, there has always been an answer. Student-based outcomes with ample student choice. It should be no surprise that many students feel empowered when choosing their projects. This is enhanced even more when they choose their outcome and reflect on their challenges.





## Soft skill development is a prerequisite.

Employers frequently tell us that many job-specific skills can be trained. Frequently, hiring decisions are based on the evidence of soft skills.

The soft skills developed in a SmartLab environment include:

- **Ability to act as a team player** – The SmartLab curriculum proposed for I Will Mentor Foundation requires that students work in teams of two or more to accomplish their project’s goals.
- **Flexibility** – As a result of the teamwork driven curriculum, students personally experience the importance of adaptability as well as the importance of exerting leadership at appropriate times.
- **Effective communication** – The SmartLab curriculum is truly transdisciplinary. In simple terms, this means that students not only work with technology, but also utilize knowledge and skills from other academic areas. For example, students are required to journal their experiences and personally assess their performance daily as well as frequently present their results to their classmates.
- **Problem-solving and resourcefulness** – In a SmartLab, learning is truly different. The foundation of the curriculum is that students are presented with problems to solve that require critical thinking, creativity, ingenuity and patience. Failure in the SmartLab is actually a benefit because students are given the opportunity to correct, learn, and improve their outcomes.



*Students who typically struggle suddenly become engaged. Mid-level students start pursuing more challenging work. And our high achievers? They soar.*

Dennis Gable, Facilitator, Elkhart Central High School



## Familiarity with next generation technology

SmartLab students gain hands-on experience with 8 different systems of technology including:

- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Circuitry
- Computer Graphics
- Digital Communications
- Mechanics and Structures
- Robotics and Control Technology
- Scientific Data and Analysis
- Software Engineering



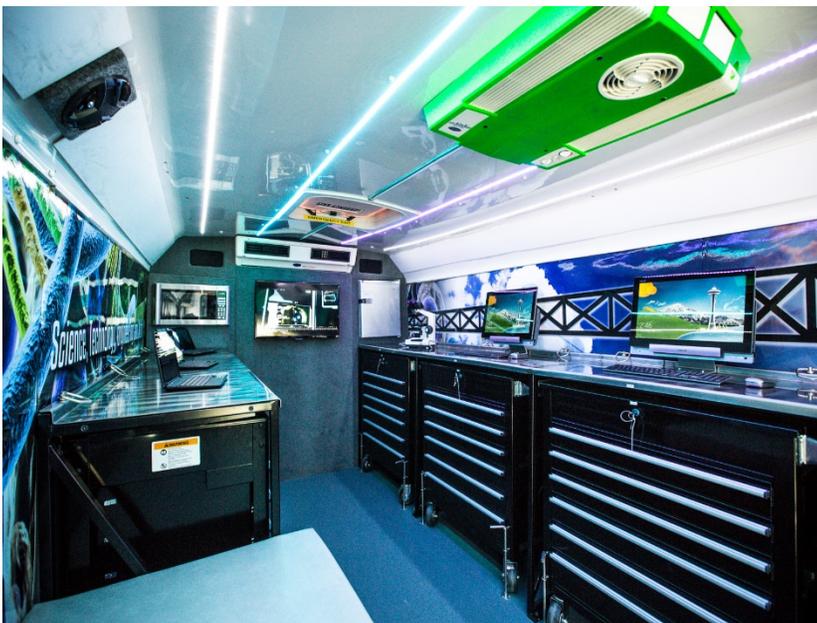
## Lastly, it's not just used during the school day

Many schools discover that a Mobile STEM lab can be used to engage more than just the gifted students during the school day. Administrators can deploy multiple models of usage that will serve a broader number of students, parents, and members of our community. Here are a couple of examples.

- **Afterschool** – extending into this time of day will enable students to further explore engagements and hone independent learning skills.
- **Summer STEM Camp** – curb the summer slide, promote your school to outside students. Use this camp as a fundraiser.
- **Parent/Guardian STEM Night** - these students facilitated events will allow your best ambassadors of STEM to teach their own parents/guardians.
- **Community STEM Night** - very similar to parent/guardian nights, but with community, government, and corporate stakeholders. It provides a great forum for your organization to engage both teachers, students, and parents.
- **STEM Night and the S Stands for Senior Citizen** - multi-generational learning in the SmartLab is authentic. Seniors love to have students “teach” them about even the most basic of projects.
- **Teacher Professional Development STEM Workshops** – STEM shouldn't be a concept only in the lab, move project-based learning into the classroom by holding PD workshops in the SmartLab.

# The Opportunity

This sustainable opportunity provides our students the excitement and exposure to next generation technology by not just learning about it, but actually working with it. Its hands-on, minds on. At I Will Mentor Foundation we take our responsibility seriously to prepare students for sustainable careers that support the needs of the industry. We look forward to further discussions regarding our Mobile SmartLab.



A SmartLab has no boundaries. A place with no boundaries means kids exceed anything you expected.

– Courtney Miller,  
SmartLab Facilitator

## Video Resources

[A Successful Stem Partnership begins with Corporate Support](#)

[Stem and Economic Development](#)

[Where Beginners become Experts](#)

[What's a Smart Lab Mean for your Students](#)

[High School STEM Student Engagement](#)

## Contact information

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# About Creative Learning Systems

As part of this project, we will partner with Creative Learning Systems, a company that specializes in individualized, project-based learning spaces for schools and academic institutions. The academic mission at CLS is to provide pedagogical support and provisioning to sustain a rigorous, inclusive, and academically focused program for students K-12.

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*They have it all in one package: the curriculum, professional development, equipment, training, and the support. We felt confident that they really knew how to do it and could make it possible without having to put all the pieces together ourselves.”*

—Dr. Stoney Beavers, assistant superintendent  
Blount County Schools

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The CLS team will support four departments: Support, Development, Curriculum, and Training. Each pillar is an integral part of their strategic development, and is crucial to ensuring success in our SmartLab.



## Support

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Providing on-demand technical and pedagogical support to schools.



## Product Development

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Constantly evaluating new materials and methods of instruction for K-12.



## Curriculum

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Providing rigorous and individualized project-based curriculum for all ages.



## Training

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Providing a consistent foundation of skills for Facilitators

# Investment Options

## SUSTAINER SPONSOR

\$5,000

Your sponsorship is equivalent to providing for instructor support or vehicle maintenance for a year

**Limited to 10**

## PACKAGE 1: Sustainer Sponsorship

Your logo will appear on our website and social media

Company name in our newsletter

Company logo on press releases

Company name logo our platform of benefices schools and communities

## CURRICULMN SPONSOR

\$10,000

Your sponsorship is equivalent to providing curriculum in a learning lab space

**Limited to 5**

## PACKAGE 2: Curriculum Sponsorship

Your logo will appear on all curriculum material

Company name on our website and social media

Company name in our newsletter

Company logo on press releases

A thank you letter from mobile participants including testimonials and photos with your company logo visible

## LAB SPONSOR

\$20,000

Your sponsorship is equivalent to equipping learning lab space

**Limited to 5**

## PACKAGE 3: Lab Sponsorship

A lab area will be named after your company and a plaque will be displayed in the lab area

Company name on outside of mobile unit

Company name on our website and social media

Company name in our newsletter

Company logo on press releases

A thank you letter from mobile participants including testimonials and photos with your company logo visible

## MOBILE UNIT SPONSOR

\$40,000

Your sponsorship is equivalent to providing the mobile lab unit

**Limited to 1**

## PACKAGE 4: Mobile Unit Sponsorship

Your logo will have exclusive rights on outside of Mobile Unit for 2 years

Key-note speaker at first reveal of unit

Company name on our website and social media

Company name in our newsletter

Company logo on press releases

A thank you letter from mobile participants including testimonials and photos with your company logo visible

