

REPORT 2017 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2017 October Cycle	Report Date: 06/27/2019 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 25,000	Date: 10/30/2017
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

SAC sought to use Najim Family Foundation funding to cover the cost of providing Challenger Center missions and complementary Planetarium experiences for approximately 1,820 pre-K through 9th-grade students who attend Title I schools throughout San Antonio, along with related professional development for 150 of their teachers. This objective was partially met.

Najim funding was used to provide the new Expedition Mars mission to 1,066 low-income 4th-8th graders, expanding this experience to elementary school students for the first time in the 2017-18 school year. Our objective was to provide this mission to 1,280 low-income 4th-8th graders. Najim funded Challenger Lunar Quest missions for 32 9th-12th graders in 2017-18, expanding this experience to high school students for the first time. Our objective was to provide this experience for 180 low-income middle and high school students. Foundation funds also covered the cost of providing Micronauts missions for 45 low-income pre-K to 2nd-grade students in 2017-18. The total number of students served by the Najim funded missions was 1,143 students PreK-12th grades.

In addition, 120 teachers flew missions with their students and were provided pre- and post-mission lessons and classroom activities that are aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) learning objectives to create a full-fledged, engaging STEM experience for their students. We set an objective to train 150 teachers in 2017-18.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

The Foundation was pleased to receive 69% (\$25,000) of its initial funding request (\$36,000) to the Najim Family Foundation. At capacity, our award would have funded missions for 1,386 students, 434 less than originally planned. In 2017-18 Najim funding provided 42 missions for 1,143 low-income students who attended Title I schools throughout San Antonio in 2017-18, or 82% of our reduced capacity. This included one high school mission, three Micronaut missions and 38 4th-8th grade missions. Approximately 17.5% of student "spaces" went unfilled as a result of decisions made by various schools.

Students in low-income communities often experience a higher-than-average absences from school, and in some cases, remedial academic testing and other school-based interventions prevented them from attending.

4: What needs were addressed?

Scobee Education Center - established on the San Antonio College (SAC) campus in 2014 - combines the college's updated and expanded Planetarium and the Challenger Learning Center at SAC, one of 42 Challenger Centers worldwide that offer dynamic, hands-on exploration and discovery opportunities in space science. The core of the Challenger Learning Center is an interactive, computerized simulator with a Mission Control room patterned after the NASA Johnson Space Center and an orbiting space station. Children participate in "missions" that bring their classroom studies to life.

Challenger missions are contributing to the Najim Family Foundation's desire to advance children's education in San Antonio by giving majority low-income students exciting opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom to a real-life scenario in a state-of-the-art, simulated learning environment. Through these experiences, we aim to inspire a lifelong passion for science that contributes to the development of a highly skilled, highly educated, diverse STEM workforce in San Antonio. Analysis of our post-mission surveys shows that 83% of students in grades 5-8 and 70% of high school students indicated they had increased their interest in STEM as a result of their mission experience. Using a three-point scale, the 2.45 scoring indicates they were "very" or "somewhat" motivated to pursue a degree in the STEM fields after participating in missions and Planetarium shows.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

Evidence of the impact of Expedition Mars Challenger missions was collected in 2017-18 via a survey provided by Challenger Center's national headquarters as a part of an agreement with NASA. Most (70%) of the approximately 1,800 survey respondents were experiencing a Challenger mission for the first time. Overall, 77.8% of middle schoolers and 80% of high school students said the Expedition Mars mission was "great," 20.3% and 20% said it was "okay," respectively, and only 2.3% of middle school students and no high school students reported not liking the experience. Nearly all middle school (80%) and high school students (70%) indicated that participation increased their interest in learning more about science, and that they would recommend participating in Challenger missions to a friend (90%).

When asked if the Expedition Mars mission was a valuable learning experience, middle schoolers rated an average 2.83 on a scale of 1 (don't agree) to 3 (strongly agree), and high schoolers averaged 2.80. Both middle (2.61) and high school (3.0) students felt they learned more about working as a team, and both groups said the experience made them more interested in working for NASA (2.6 and 2.9, respectively), more interested in studying STEM in school (2.49 and 2.9, respectively), and more interested in pursuing a STEM career (2.32 and 2.9, respectively).

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

The Challenger Learning Center and Scobee Planetarium have been vital components of public school teachers' curriculum since 2014. We plan to continue providing no-cost programming for Title I schools with the continued generosity of the Najim Family Foundation and other donors who are committed to enhancing students' experiences in the classroom and community.

Additional fundraising efforts have allowed SAC to hire an additional full-time Academic Program Coordinator for the Micronauts programs for the Scobee Education Center, and we have not increased fees for Challenger missions or Planetarium programs since we opened in 2014, even though the portion of the college's budget that supports Scobee Education Center has been significantly reduced.

7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.

As the broader Bexar County community further expands STEM offerings for our children, it is important to maintain the strategies in support of the Title I communities whose children may not be afforded the off campus and out of their neighborhood experiences such as those available at the Scobee Education Center.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
4th-8th grade missions + planetarium program	\$22,800	\$22,800	\$22,800	\$22,800
Micronaut PreK-3rd grade missions + planetarium program	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$1,350
High school mission + planetarium program	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
TOTAL:	\$24,750	\$24,750	\$24,750	\$24,750

Signature

Sheila Marlow Due