



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 5, 2018

Re: Authorizing an Agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc.

Executive Summary

Staff is requesting Council authorization to provide financial support in the amount of \$35,000 from the FY2016 general fund savings to Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc., to promote and support education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) within our community, in accordance with the City's Strategic Plan.

Discussion

STEM Alliance, Inc. is a non-profit corporation formally established to promote and support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education in mid-Missouri. The Columbia STEM Alliance grew out of a CPS STEM World Café event with a goal to build a network of educators, business partners and volunteers that will work together to catalyze business and individual efforts to create a workforce that will drive job growth and improve the quality of life in Columbia and mid-Missouri.

The Columbia STEM Alliance has recently launched two programs that are making an impact on STEM education in Mid-Missouri.

Community wide coding initiative:

- Launched a community wide coding initiative to introduce students to coding using the micro.bit (<http://microbit.org/>) minicomputers and leveraging on-line, classroom and club environments for engaging students.
- Over 1,500 Columbia students have completed initial coding course work and are programming their personal minicomputers.

Robotics:

- Engaged with students by providing direct support for robotics education.
- Last fall Columbia hosted its first ever regional FIRST Lego League competition. Over sixteen teams from schools throughout mid-Missouri participated in this competition; many on the teams were first year teams from Columbia.

The City Manager's office and the department of Public Works wish to support this community endeavor by contributing \$35,000 from our department's FY2016 general fund savings. This venture supports the City's Strategic Plan.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: A one-time payment of \$35,000 will be made to Columbia STEM Alliance from the City's FY2016 general fund savings.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

Suggested Council Action

Authorize an agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance to provide financial support from the FY2016 general fund savings.