



THE
PAST FOUNDATION

Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education
Interested Party Testimony
HB 33 – FY24-25 State Operating Budget

Dr. Annalies Corbin, President and CEO, PAST Foundation
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Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today on House Bill 33, the State Operating Budget, in support of PAST Foundation’s amendment which would appropriate \$750,000 in each fiscal year through the Ohio Department of Education’s Educator Preparation appropriation line for the **STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative**.

As you all know, the talent and workforce shortage in Ohio is challenging industry across the state – especially in STEM fields. The State of Ohio is taking many steps to address this challenge, including a focused strategy to increase post-secondary enrollment and completion in STEM fields and to strengthen its supply of talent necessary to fill critical in-demand jobs and careers.¹

Yet K-12 educators face unique challenges in developing talent to meet those enrollment goals. That is where PAST Foundation has been able to fill a gap within our K-12 schools and districts. PAST Foundation is a non-profit provider of STEM education, curriculum design, and workforce development. PAST stands for “Partnering Anthropology with Science and Technology,” and was formed in 2000 to improve education by linking learning to real-life through hands-on, student-centered activities and instruction. In close collaboration with industry partners, PAST helps communities design curriculum, internship programs, pathway programs, and mentoring opportunities that, over 22 years, have given more than 2.3 million students the opportunity to develop skills necessary for a successful career in a high-demand STEM field.

The legislature has invested in PAST Foundation’s **STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative** over the last two biennial budgets, and with that funding, to date, **243 educators from more than 31 Ohio counties, 59 school districts, and 100 schools** have participated in the program. Participating educators increase their knowledge and skill base in several STEM career areas required to design, integrate, and deliver STEM learning experiences for students to learn about “work through work.” **More than 36,000 students are projected to have been impacted by this programming.**

Additionally, to date, the **STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative** programming has afforded 134 educators the opportunity to earn an industry recognized credential in one or more of the following areas:

- Drone Pilot License (FAA Part 107)
- USI Unmanned Safety Level 1
- Lean 6 Sigma Yellow Belt

¹ Ohio Department of Higher Education, “Scholarships Will Further Bolster Ohio’s STEM Workforce,” 2022 <https://highered.ohio.gov/about/news-events/all-news/scholarships-will-further-bolster-ohios-stem-workforce-dec2022>

- Lean 6 Sigma Green Belt
- Certified SolidWorks Associate
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business
- Leadership Excellence
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Network+
- CompTIA Security+

We have an increased request this year for \$750,000 per fiscal year, because we have waiting lists of educators who want to participate in the program, and because PAST's STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative is poised to offer several exciting new components:

- *Educators Attain Industry Recognized Credentials*: Teacher development will occur through a fellowship approach that enables teachers to attain an industry recognized credential (IRC) based upon regional workforce needs, which in turn prepares them to teach those skills to the emerging workforce.
- *portfoliOH Tool*: In partnership with StartSOLE, PAST Foundation will launch portfoliOH, a tool that students will use to capture their progress in work-based learning experiences, career technical education, and College Credit Plus as aligned to regional in-demand jobs. Any learner can then use their portfoliOH to document and track work-based learning experiences, credential and graduation Seal attainment, and valuable interactions with employers, educators, and mentors, which signal workforce readiness. The portfoliOH will be interoperable with college and career planning tools, such as Transeo and Common App, and real-life career platforms including LinkedIn, Indeed, and Handshake.
- *Advanced Manufacturing, IT, and Telecommunications Pathways*: PAST and its partners will assist K-12 school districts in regions across Ohio to develop talent in Advanced Manufacturing pathways (AMp), Information Technology (IT), and Telecommunications (T), or **AMp-ITT-up**. These in-demand pathways are Ohio's fastest growing industry clusters and offerings are rare in the state's rural and urban education environments. **AMp-ITT-up** will include transdisciplinary, inquiry-, career-focused lessons that can be embedded across the K-12 curriculum.

With an increased investment, the **STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative** is projected to impact over 321,000 students across Ohio over the next five years. This investment will ensure strategic, in-demand career training opportunities for teachers in STEM fields and hands-on experiences for students.

My written testimony includes a table sharing our projections and impact to date (Table 1), in addition to a map with PAST Foundation's impact across Ohio (Figure 1).

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you an update on our work and details on our budget amendment. I am happy to take any questions you may have.

Annalies Corbin, PHD
 President & CEO PAST Foundation
 1003 Kinnear Road
 Columbus, OH 43212
 614.340.1208
www.pastfoundation.org

PAST Foundation - STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative

Projected impact thru FY27	FY22	FY23 *midyear	Projection FY24	Projection FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27	Projection FY27	IMPACT TOTALS
Educators	69	174	250	300	400	450	500	2,143
Student Impact	10,350	26,100	37,500	45,000	60,000	67,500	75,000	321,450
Additional Students Receiving Direct Instruction from PAST or PAST Fellows	848	3,150	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	23,998
Educational Leaders	30	75	125	150	200	200	200	980
Projected Program Cost per Student (Industry Recognized Credential Exposure)			\$18.07	\$15.31	\$11.72	\$10.49	\$9.49	
Projected Program Cost per Teacher			\$3,000	\$2,500	\$1,875	\$1,667	\$1,500	

Table 1

Impact of Previous Funding: Thanks to prior state investments, PAST Foundation maintains a substantial presence across the State of Ohio and leverages partners to increase the impact of its work. An additional state investment is sure to amplify the reach of the organization and its partners. The map below denotes the presence of the organization’s full set of partnerships.

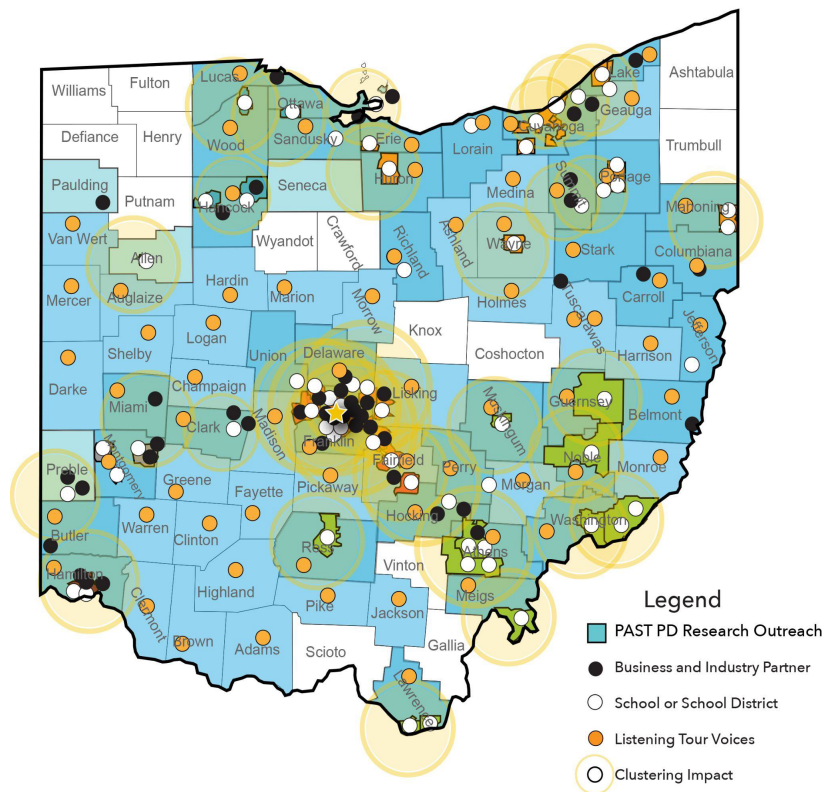


Figure 1