



THE PAST FOUNDATION

Ohio Senate Education Committee Interested Party Testimony HB 33 – FY24-25 State Operating Budget

Dr. Annalies Corbin, President and CEO, PAST Foundation
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Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on House Bill 33, 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
- Lean 6 Sigma Green 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>

- Certified SolidWorks Associate
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business
- Leadership Excellence
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Network+
- CompTIA Security+

PAST Foundation's STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative is included in the House version of H.B. 33 in the amount of \$500,000 per fiscal year, and we have an amendment pending before you to increase that level to \$750,000 per fiscal year. The additional funding will address the waiting lists of educators who want to participate in the program, as well as the following new components of PAST's STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative:

- *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 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.

With an increased investment to \$750,000 per fiscal year, the **STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative** is projected to impact over 118,950 students across Ohio over the next two years. This investment will ensure strategic, in-demand career training opportunities for teachers in STEM fields and hands-on experiences for students at a per student cost of only \$13.94.

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. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Ohio General Assembly.

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PAST Foundation - STEM Educator Workforce Collaborative

Projected impact thru FY25	FY22 (\$250,000)	FY23 (\$250,000)	Projection FY24 (\$750,000)	Projection FY25 (\$750,000)	TOTALS
Educators Participated	69	174	250	300	793
Educators Credentialed	27	105	150	180	462
Student Impacted: Number of Students Impacted per Teacher	10,350	26,100	37,500	45,000	118,950
Students Receiving Direct Credential Instruction from PAST or PAST Fellows	848	3,150	4,000	4,000	11,998
Students Impacted via Career Pathway Development			6,250	6,250	12,500
Educational Leaders Participating in Program	30	75	125	150	380
Total Number of Students Impacted Per Fiscal Year	11,198	29,250	47,750	55,250	143,448
Cost per Student Exposure	\$22.33	\$8.55	\$15.71	\$13.57	\$13.94
Cost per Educator Trained	\$3,623.19	\$1,436.78	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$2,522.07

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.

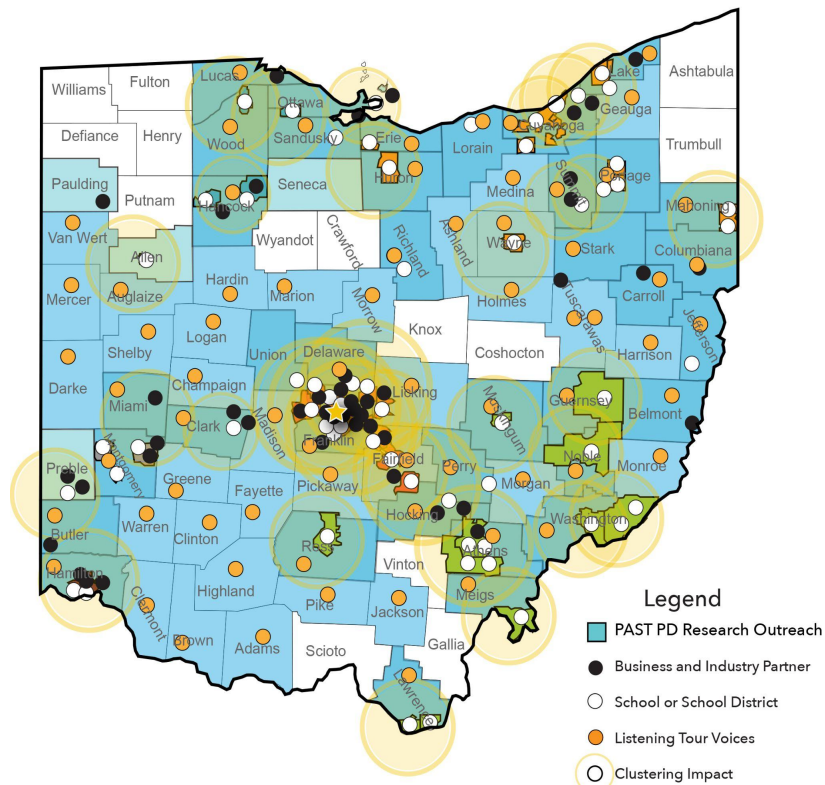


Figure 1