



2025 - 2026 FACULTY AND STAFF GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name of Project/Program: Great Minds in STEM conference Date: May 19, 2025

Applicant's Name: Richard Cortes

GCC Position: Chair/STEM counselor Department: Student Services

E-mail: rcortes@glendale.edu Phone

Please check which category best describes your project:

- Arts & Culture, Athletics & Fitness, Career & Work Training, College Operations & Facilities, Humanities/Social Sciences, Science & Technology, Other

Amount requested: \$ 6100

Please attach a one- to two-page typed request that provides a comprehensive summary of your project/program and establishes the need. Please include the following:

- What do you propose to do? Who will be involved in the project/program? What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? Timeline for the project/program. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward?

Please email this completed and signed form along with your proposal to zjacobs@glendale.edu

Submission Deadline - Thursday, May 29, 2025, by 5:00 PM PST

Signature box containing applicant's signature, department head signature, and printed name.

Grant Review Committee comments and/or recommendations:

This grant was denied/approved on The amount awarded is \$

**Dear Foundation Committee,**

As a long-time STEM counselor, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that professional career conferences can have on our students—especially those from historically underrepresented backgrounds. These conferences often serve as a catalyst for students to discover their purpose, deepen their motivation, and visualize their future through mentorship, networking, and career exploration opportunities.

We are seeking funding to support a group of eight STEM students to attend the **Great Minds in STEM Conference**, taking place from **Thursday, October 2 through Saturday, October 4, 2025 in San Diego**. This nationally recognized event attracts over 1,500 college students annually and offers access to scholarship competitions, career fairs, and workshops hosted by leading STEM professionals and Fortune 500 companies.

In previous years, Glendale Community College students who attended this conference have earned scholarships, won the College Bowl competitions, and secured prestigious internships. STEM Counselor Angie Aguilar and I will serve as chaperones and organizers for this trip.

This initiative directly aligns with **Goal A (Clarify Student Pathways)** and **Goal C (Help Students Stay on the Pathway)** of the Institutional Strategic Plan. Participating students will engage in professional development experiences that reinforce their educational goals, expand their knowledge of career pathways, and build critical positive self-efficacy. These high-impact practices are essential for helping students remain committed to their academic and career trajectories.

To ensure logistical success, we aim to begin planning in August to take advantage of early bird discounts and secure hotel accommodations. The proposed budget is as follows:

- **Conference Registration:** \$200 per student × 8 students = **\$1,600**
- **Hotel Accommodations:** \$279/night × 4 rooms × 4 nights (incl. taxes) = **\$3,884.32**
- **Travel & Transportation:** **\$600**
- **Total:** **\$6,084.32**

We initially requested funding from the Bien in STEM grant; however, due to limited resources, we were encouraged to apply for support from the GCC Foundation.

If awarded, we plan to recognize the Foundation's generosity by presenting at a Board of Trustees meeting and sharing student reflections across the GCC community. Additionally, we will assess the project's impact through **pre- and post-surveys** measuring students' career self-efficacy and motivation related to their STEM majors.

In my years as a counselor, I've seen how experiences like these can ignite purpose, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen peer connections. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. Please see the attached photos from past conferences to get a glimpse of the impact.

Great Minds in STEM Conference Foundation Grant Proposal

Warm regards,  
**Richard D. Cortes, PhD**  
Chair, Student Services Division  
STEM Counselor

Great Minds in STEM Conference 2015



Great Minds in STEM Conference Foundation Grant Proposal



Great Minds in STEM 2013 in New Orleans (college bowl)

