



STEMCAT
WE BUILD.

I WILL MENTORSHIP FOUNDATION DBA
STEMCAT

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Workforce Futurist Report — how STEMCAT
measured itself in 2025.

We start at **eight**,
not eighteen.



Choice, not circumstance.

Dear friends and partners,

In 2025, more than 920 young people across Southwest Florida chose to build something. They flew drones, grew food with technology on our urban farm, drew blueprints and learned what it takes to show up ready for work. Most of them came from households where nobody had been shown these careers before. That is the gap STEMCAT exists to close.

Our model is simple. We start at eight, not eighteen. We connect students to employers on day one, not at graduation. And we measure ourselves: when a participant does not finish, we record that against the organization, not the student.

This year we grew into a fourth county, Hendry, and ran four program areas in Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry. On average, 37% of students showed measurable gains in communication, teamwork and analytical thinking on pre- and post-assessments.

None of this happens without the employers, foundations, government partners and neighbors listed in this report. You paid for the seats so families did not have to. Thank you.

The next chapter is already under way: robotics, healthcare and aviation pathways, and the Workforce Innovation Field House. We are building it here, for here.

Dr. Jesse L. Bryson, Ed.D.

Founder & CEO, STEMCAT · U.S. Army veteran (21 years) · Golden Apple Award recipient

OUR MISSION

To launch the next workforce generation into a future of choice.

OUR VISION

No generation without choice. No industry without talent.

OUR MODEL

Expose. Experience. Employment.

Since 2015, STEMCAT has helped Southwest Florida youth and adults see, try and enter careers in STEM and the skilled trades.

2025 by the numbers

A year of growth in reach, in counties served and in the partners who make every seat possible.

920+

STUDENTS SERVED

Lee, Collier, Charlotte & Hendry counties

1,020

PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS

Many students joined more than one program

4

COUNTIES

Hendry County joined in 2025

4

PROGRAM AREAS

Blueprint · Agriculture · Workforce · Aviation & Drones

90%

LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME

Share of participants from LMI households

37%

AVERAGE SKILL GAIN

Students with measurable growth on pre/post assessments

15

EMPLOYER, INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Who hosted, hired, mentored or funded

100%

BOARD GIVING

Every director gives financially

\$0

COST TO FAMILIES

Seats are paid for by partners, grants & donors

4

Where we work

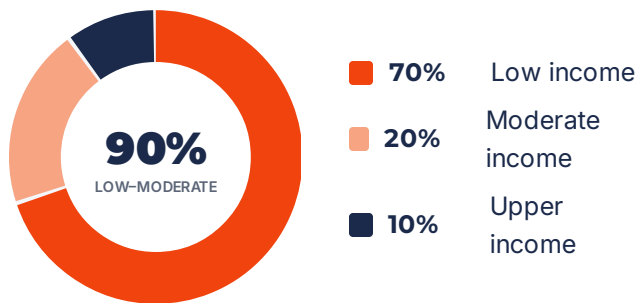
Lee County (Fort Myers home base) · Collier County · Charlotte County · **Hendry County — new in 2025**

Talent is everywhere. Opportunity isn't.

STEMCAT focuses on students from households that are least likely to be shown high-wage technical careers.

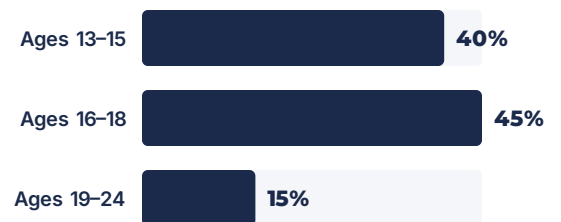
Household income

Share of 2025 participants



Age range

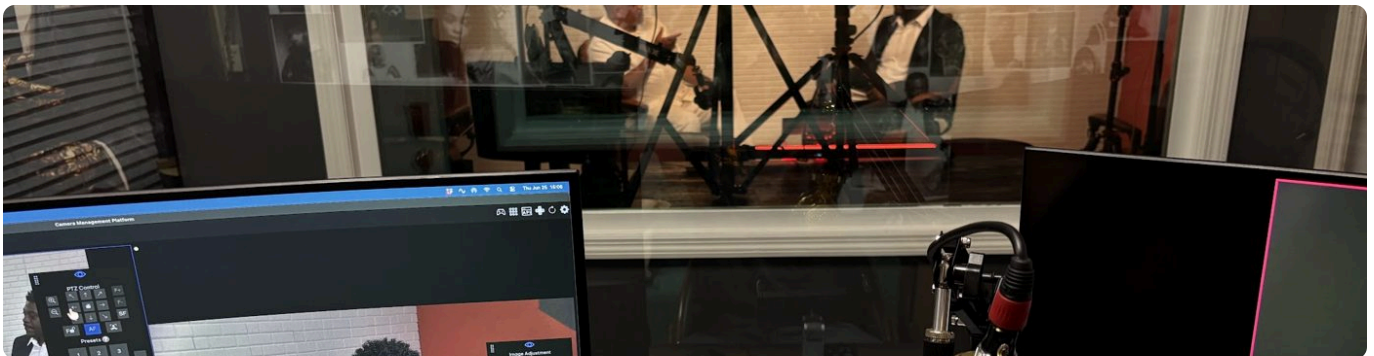
Share of 2025 participants



Most participants were 13 to 18 years old: the window when career choices begin.

9 in 10

participants came from low- to moderate-income households. For most of them, STEMCAT is the first time a technical career has been put in front of them and made reachable, at no cost to their family.



Inside the STEMCAT media studio in Fort Myers, where students learn digital media and production.

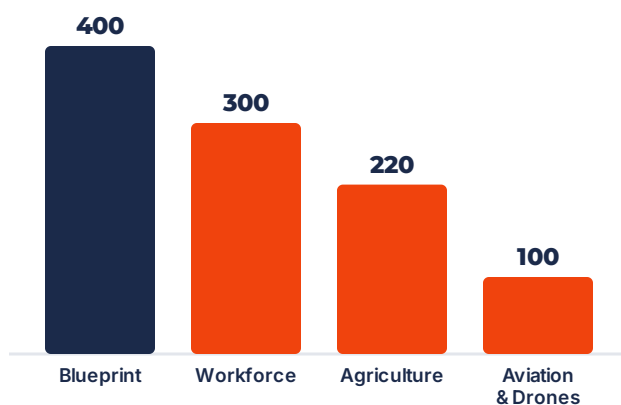
PROGRAMS

Four ways in. One pipeline.

The Workforce Futurist Initiative combines STEM career exploration, agricultural technology and workforce readiness, delivered with schools and employers.

Enrollment by program area, 2025

1,020 enrollments from 920+ students



The STEMCAT pipeline

- **Expose** — elementary & middle school: camps and after-school STEM
- **Experience** — high school: hands-on projects, internships, competitions
- **Employment** — young adults: credentials and a first job

400 ENROLLED

Blueprint

Design thinking, drafting and project leadership. Students learn to plan, build and lead as a team.

300 ENROLLED

Workforce Readiness

Professional skills, career exploration and employer exposure for teens and young adults.

220 ENROLLED

Agriculture

Our urban farm pairs growing food with sensors, data and technology, plus youth entrepreneurship.

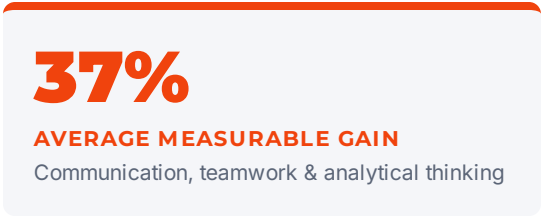
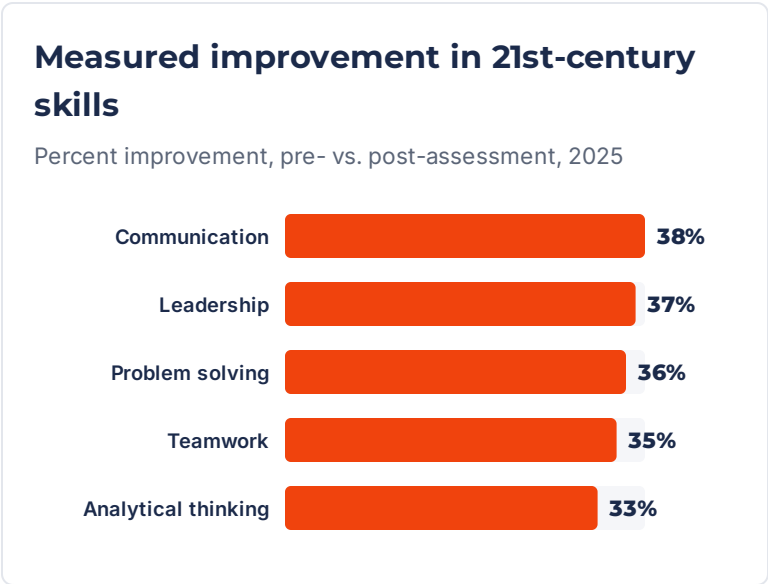
100 ENROLLED

Aviation & Drones

Drone operation, flight rules and an introduction to aviation and aerospace careers.

We measure ourselves.

Every cohort completed a pre-assessment and a post-assessment. Instructors also observed students and scored their project work.



- How we measure**
- Pre- and post-surveys
 - Instructor observation
 - Project-based scoring

- Sample pre-survey questions**
1. How confident are you when communicating with others?
 2. How comfortable are you working in a team?
 3. How familiar are you with STEM career opportunities?

- Sample post-survey questions**
1. How has your communication confidence improved?
 2. How often do you apply teamwork in projects?
 3. How has your awareness of technology careers changed?

Raising the bar in 2026: as our adult workforce pathways launch, STEMCAT will also report credentials earned, job and apprenticeship placements, and starting wages. We report employment, not just graduation.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Built together.

Each partner gave resources, volunteer hours, funding or a place to learn. Together they cover the cost of every seat.

15

EMPLOYER, INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

4

MAJOR FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

4

COUNTIES WITH ACTIVE PARTNERS

MAJOR FUNDERS

Lee County Government
Weir Family Foundation
Glenn Bailey Foundation
Dean Piccirillo Foundation

GOVERNMENT & CIVIC PARTNERS

City of Fort Myers
Fort Myers Police Department
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee

COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY PARTNERS

American Red Cross
Price Foundation
Suncoast Credit Union
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County
Pathways to Opportunity
Colonial Roofing

IN THEIR WORDS

"Blueprint taught me teamwork and how to lead with confidence."

— Student, Lee County

"The drone course opened my eyes to aviation careers I never knew existed."

— STEMCAT participant

"Working on the STEM farm made me realize technology and agriculture go hand in hand."

— Agriculture cohort member

STEWARDSHIP

Your gift, **accounted for.**

\$0

BILLED TO
FAMILIES

~8%

INDIRECT EXPENSE
RATE

100%

BOARD GIVING

No deficit

FY2025 CLOSED
BALANCED

Fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2025. The full IRS Form 990 is available on request at info@stemcat.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

What 2025 **made possible**

Robotics Technician Pre-Apprenticeship

A 120-hour, credential-focused robotics pathway with ROOTS Education Co.

Healthcare Readiness Workforce

Earn-to-learn with FGCU and Lee Health. Completers interview for 7 gateway jobs.

Aviation & Uncrewed Systems

Drone certification and ground school, leading to A&P and other aviation apprenticeships.

Workforce Innovation Field House

A permanent home for STEMCAT's seven Industry 4.0 pathways and Southwest Florida's talent pipeline.

Fund a seat. Change a choice.

\$4,570 funds one student's full year of skills training.

stemcat.org/give →



No generation without choice.
No industry without talent.

Every STEMCAT seat is paid for by employers, partners, grants and donors — so the family pays nothing. Your gift is the scholarship.

Give

stemcat.org/give

Give monthly

Choice Builders —
\$27/month

Partner

Hire, host, mentor or
sponsor a pathway

STEMCAT · a DBA of I Will Mentorship Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit · EIN 47-3761436
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