



Dear Easton Families and Donors,

ELF is embarking on an exciting new chapter in the Foundation’s history. We are celebrating our fifth anniversary and are proud to announce our new five-year initiative focusing on **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, our STEM Campaign.**

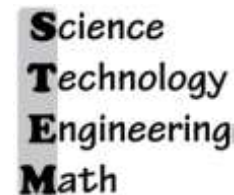
STEM is synonymous with education that prepares students for occupations in areas such as engineering, science, medicine, architecture, and information technology. In support of our school district’s vision, ELF seeks to foster a love of STEM learning in our schools.

The United States is experiencing a high-tech staffing crisis. The U.S. is falling behind other countries in graduating students in the technology (STEM) fields. Research shows that most engineers choose their fields as a result of exposure to engineering concepts at a young age. Thus, the research concludes, the earlier students explore engineering concepts, the more likely they will foster an interest in this field of study. Studies also show that by high school, many students don’t understand what engineers do, believing that only the “super smart” can become engineers, and that engineering is for “guys” only.

Given this need in our country and our schools, ELF has made a long-term commitment to expose our students to STEM concepts as early as possible. For the next five years, ELF will focus on supporting all Easton schools with grants that promote STEM learning.

One way ELF is promoting STEM learning is by partnering with Helen Keller Middle School to fund and implement a pre-engineering program called “Gateway to Technology” created by a national not-for-profit organization, Project Lead the Way (www.pltw.org). This program was specifically designed for middle schools and includes five different areas of study:

1. Design and Modeling
2. The Magic of Electrons
3. The Science of Technology
4. Automation and Robotics
5. Flight and Space



[The cost of providing “Gateway to Technology” for five years for grades 6–8 at HKMS is approximately \\$115,000.](#) ELF is seeking financial support from individuals and corporations to raise funds by May 2010 to provide this program for the 2010-2015 school years. Since ELF will be funding this program for five years, and administrators expect the ongoing costs of up to \$8,900 annually to be included in the school budget, all students grade K–7 will benefit from this grant in middle school!

Our mission is to be a long-term partner with our school district to enrich education in Easton. We are truly grateful for every donation and hope you have seen the powerful impact of your past donations to ELF. We have set ambitious goals on behalf of our students with the STEM Campaign and hope we have earned your continued support.

Regards,

Bernadette Waterman, *ELF President*

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