

**CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Date 12/11/2018

Contact Information

Organization Name: AIM Academy Executive Director: Patricia Roberts
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Year Incorporated: 2006 jantonoplos@aimpa.org
FEIN: 01-0849648

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation?

Yes ___ No Not Sure ___

Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No
Not Sure ___

___ Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

___ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare
___x Education
___ Health ___ Human Services ___ Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):
102 zip codes/56 school districts

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

357 students in Greater Philadelphia region to include Chester Co. - 6%, Phila. Co. - 30%, Main Line-25%, Ambler/Ft. Washington/Willow Grove area - 17% Other 18%, New Jersey - 4%

Mission:

*** Provide extraordinary educational opportunities to children with language-based learning disabilities such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, utilizing research-based intervention strategies and an arts-based learning environment that is college preparatory in scope and sequence. ** Develop a center for educational excellence and professional development to disseminate best practices to educators by providing access to the latest research-based curriculum, technology, and training.*

Proposal Summary: General operating support of AIM Academy and AIM Institute for Learning & Research

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development ___ Technology Other: _____

Annual Budget \$6,318,666 127# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

85 % of budget for program expenses 25 # of Board Volunteers

9% of budget for administrative expenses 100 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

6% of budget for fundraising expenses # of Volunteer Hours **Top 3-5 funding sources:**

Barra Foundation, Emily Hall Foundation, Olitsky Foundation, individuals

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5000

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

AIM Academy was founded in 2006 to provide extraordinary educational opportunities to children with language-based learning disabilities including dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, utilizing research-based intervention strategies and an arts-based learning environment.

AIM is a college preparatory independent school serving grades 1-12 with 357 students with learning

disabilities representing 56 school districts and 102 zip codes in the Greater Philadelphia region.

AIM first opened its doors in 2006 with 24 students in an old parochial school building in Manayunk. AIM moved to a new campus in Conshohocken in 2012 to accommodate a major increase in enrollment and to have designated space to offer professional development for educators from all over the region to gain expertise in teaching literacy. In 2016, AIM opened its Community Center. This new building provides students a designated space for gym and performing arts.

AIM was created with the belief that children with language based learning disabilities can and will thrive in a rigorous academic setting when they are taught by a highly committed, experienced and creative faculty who have ongoing access to the latest research, best practices, technological resources, and experts in their field. We dedicate ourselves to putting research into practice every day. AIM Academy students thrive in classrooms that offer multisensory and experiential learning and our programs are designed to foster self-esteem and social responsibility. Their academic and intellectual development is further enhanced by an array of extracurricular activities and enrichment in the arts, athletics and community service. It is our goal, that upon graduation, our students are prepared for the challenges, complexities and choices available to them at university and beyond. Curiosity, collaboration, compassion, confidence and critical thinking are their tools for success.

The AIM Institute for Learning & Research is a center for educational excellence and professional development providing teachers and professionals who work with children who learn differently with specialized training programs and access to the latest research and best practices for the classroom. The Institute is committed to quickly translating laboratory research into effective interventions and educational practices for all students. More than 6000 professionals and parents have had access to the experts at AIM since 2006. AIM Institute is the first educational partner with the Haskins Global L2 (Language & Literacy) Innovation Hub to improve language and literacy outcomes for children at risk of reading difficulties across languages and cultures. AIM will form the IGNITE CENTER as part of its partnership which will serve as a research hub for researchers and practitioners who study the neuroscience of language and implications for acquiring improved literacy skills; serve as an incubator of research activities that require interaction with a school environment; train educators and coaches to implement evidence-based literacy programs and convene research fellows, their faculty advisors, teacher scholars and university partners to advance continued research in the field of learning and literacy.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives, need, why it is important to fund now, how impact and results will be demonstrated.**

Key initiatives at AIM include the AIM Wolfpack Robotics Program, Center for Global Leadership and the design and development of AIM Pathways - an evidence-based, research-driven, digitally delivered teacher learning tool.

AIM Wolfpack Robotics:

The AIM Robotics Program teaches students who learn differently using technology and robotics. AIM Robotics works with students at-risk, due to their learning differences, and teaches problem solving skills, teamwork, executive functioning, time management, collaboration and communications skills. These skills last a lifetime and positively affect students' academic and social development, self-esteem and well-being. AIM Robotics students also learn engineering, design and STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts & Mathematics) principles that can lead to exciting career paths and lifelong passions. Program mentors leave a lasting impression on AIM students. In addition, students have the opportunity to travel, collaborate with and compete against students from local, regional and national schools. These experiences broaden AIM students' horizons and provide more positive and diverse life experiences.

AIM Academy tracks academic progress across all disciplines and evaluates the success of students involved in the program. Students involved achieve enhanced social standing with peers and increased self-confidence and self-esteem. The FRC Robotics 5407 team competed in the 2018 World Championships in Detroit and earned the Top Rookie Team Award at the 2015 World Championships in St. Louis. The student-led team competes in Mid-Atlantic Robotics Competitions each winter and consistently competes at the championship level for the district. In 2017-2018 the team received the Engineering Award at each of its three regional competitions and placed 17 out of 86 teams at the 2018 World Festival in Detroit. For the 2018-19 school year there are 22 students; 4 females and 18 males. Four (4) Class of 2018 students are attending engineering schools to include University of Pittsburgh, Drexel University, Penn State University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Center for Global Leadership:

Helping students make connections to their role as global citizens is a critical part of AIM's curriculum from our Lower School Interactive Humanities classes to our Middle and Upper School students exploring numerous service and leadership opportunities. The newly formed Center for Global Leadership at AIM seeks to develop and enhance the current AIM curriculum through integrating global citizenship matrices across all courses which will help teachers and students discuss a wide range of ideas including, social justice, equity, sustainability and more. These and other courses are thoughtfully developing globally based scenarios through discussions, writing and STEAM related projects.

The Center is a resource for professional development and curriculum design. It is a hub for meaningful student travel and cultural learning and it is home to our AIM Global Scholars program. AIM's Global Scholars are carefully selected and pursue a course of study throughout high school that helps them meet a rigorous standard for global competency. This year, some Global Scholars will take a yearlong course in Dominican culture and travel to the Dominican

Republic for a service experience in March. Global Scholars will also attend the Student Diversity Leadership Conference in San Diego and the Global Summit in Andover, Massachusetts. Support is needed to assist with travel expenses for students.

AIM Pathways:

AIM Pathways is a research-driven, digitally-delivered learning tool that teachers can learn, practice, and apply in their classrooms. This groundbreaking platform gives teacher training access and knowledge to actual case studies online and “just in time” diagnostic and prescriptive tools to use in schools that will increase literacy rates for **all** struggling readers. This digital learning tool gives teachers the knowledge content they need without leaving the classroom for costly, time consuming “stand and deliver” professional development. This project represents a scalable, affordable solution for schools where the implementation goal is to create internal coaches or lead teachers through AIM’s train-the-trainer workshops allowing them to utilize AIM Pathways courses as part of their ongoing professional development. Implementation efforts will target 360 nationwide communities who are part of the Grade Level Reading (GLR) Campaign. The goal is to implement the AIM Pathways solution to 1500 teachers in the next 2-3 years. This would result in student impact of approximately 45,000 children a year. Support is needed for the design and development phase to deliver the first course, Pathways to Proficient Reading.

Success will be measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores that have been unchanged in many years. Two-thirds of our nation's children are reading below basic level which is unacceptable. It is our hope that NAEP scores will improve and accelerate so that 95% of all children would be reading at grade level in the next 10-15 years.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter - ATTACHED
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations - ATTACHED
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available - ATTACHED
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date - ATTACHED
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant’s proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain.

As a result of increased enrollment at AIM Academy and AIM Institute for Learning & Research expansion and goal of creating a new financial sustainability model, AIM is in the process of developing a new strategic plan.