Education & Skills

For nearly 100 years, the GE Foundation has actively supported efforts to create a high-quality education pipeline for all students. Through its signature education and skills initiatives – Developing Futures™ and Developing Skills - the GE Foundation seeks to empower 14- to 24-year-old students to become globally productive citizens. We help provide access to learning experiences that support the workforce of tomorrow and address the anticipated global shortfall of 45 million workers in 2020[1].

In April 2016, the GE Foundation brought Developing Skills to Boston to create a Model of Excellence, by providing opportunities for students to become critical thinkers, innovators, creators, problem solvers and leaders. Through a $25 million commitment, the GE Foundation is investing in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in Boston Public Schools through a series of in-school initiatives to help today's students explore career opportunities and prepare for the jobs of the future. Learn more here.

Developing Skills is working to bridge the gap between education and industry, classroom and career, and the economy of the future and the skills of today. Through this effort, the GE Foundation partnered with MIT's Fab Foundation to develop the GE Brilliant Career Lab (BCL) – an interactive online experience and mobile lab that combines experiential learning with career-readiness planning in high-demand STEM fields. The mobile BCL brings together students and real-world careers. Since inception in 2017, the BCL has engaged 25 Boston public high schools, reaching more than 3,300 students in 126 classes.

The GE Foundation continues to team up with the National Basketball Association's Boston Celtics to offer a mobile STEM lab for middle school students. The state- of-the-art Brilliant Career Play brings age-appropriate, hands-on STEM experiences to Boston and Massachusetts public middle school students. This collaborative community initiative focuses on enhancing access to STEM training to encourage young people to become more familiar with the field. Since inception, the Brilliant Career Play visited 15 middle schools, engaging over 2,600 students across 99 classes in digital fabrication.

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In April 2016, the GE Foundation brought Developing Skills to Boston.

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1 McKinsey Global Institute, 2016 report

Realizing the success of the mobile STEM labs, the GE Foundation joined forces with GE Gas Power in Schenectady, New York, to launch a GE Brilliant Career Lab for the city's public-school district. Through the mobile lab, students are becoming familiar with new technologies, such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, milling machines, and programming tools.

The education and skills initiatives include partnerships with pilot schools and non-profits in Boston to create exemplary models at the middle, high school and community college level, and offer workplace learning experiences such as summer internships and job shadow days to Boston high school students.

The comprehensive initiatives also aim to equip educators with the resources they need to successfully and sustainably teach STEM, while bringing innovative training programs to middle school and high school students.

The GE Foundation is committed to unlocking endless possibilities for individuals and key industry sectors to make our world a better place.

The Brilliant Career Play, a mobile STEM lab for middle school students, was launched by the GE Foundation and Boston Celtics in 2017.

Photo credit: Boston Celtics
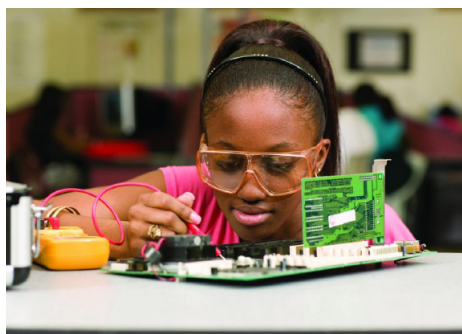
"A lot of students of color don't go into STEM because they either don't know what STEM is, or they just think that it's too hard, or they can't do it – when in reality anyone can do it, you just have to learn." – Boston Public School student

"Last year, we piloted an introduction to computer science using coding for first-year students. Academically, they were so excited to learn about coding. It's going to be really neat to see what they do over the next three years." – Boston Public School teacher