



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit Utilities Donates \$20,000 To Museum Of Discovery

Gift supports Title I school educational outreach

Little Rock, AR – Summit Utilities has donated \$20,000 to the Museum of Discovery (MoD) to expand STEAM education programs for Title I schools across Arkansas. This funding aligns with the museum's mission to provide hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) learning experiences to underserved students. In Fall 2024, Summit Utilities' \$5,000 donation helped the Museum of Discovery reach over 700 Title I students. With this new contribution, the museum can extend its impact across the Summit Utilities service area, furthering its commitment to equitable STEAM access for historically underserved communities.

Title I schools, where at least 40% of students come from low-income families, remain a primary focus of the museum's outreach efforts. Arkansas is home to more than 900 Title I schools, and the Museum of Discovery aims to ensure that students from these schools have access to the same enriching STEAM experiences as their peers. Research underscores the link between education and poverty reduction, making these initiatives vital for shaping future generations.

As demand for STEAM professionals grows, targeted, hands-on education is more critical than ever. The museum's outreach exposes students to STEAM careers, offering a path to economic opportunity and independence. In a state with low STEAM workforce representation, this initiative fosters a more diverse and capable talent pipeline.

"STEM presentations like the ones provided by the Museum of Discovery provide students with engaging, hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math concepts. These engaging presentations help foster curiosity and critical thinking," shared Brandon Bagwell, K-12 Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement Coordinator at Harmony Grove School District. "They help students make real-world connections, develop problem-solving skills, and explore potential career paths in STEM fields."

“The Museum of Discovery is excited about our ongoing partnership with Summit Utilities,” said MoD Chief Development Officer Melissa Stiles. “Providing STEAM education to children in Arkansas’s Title I schools is vitally important to both organizations. We are so grateful for their support and commitment to the museum and STEAM education.”

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Museum of Discovery for a second year, supporting their vital mission to bring hands-on STEAM education to Title I schools,” said Eliza Castillo, Vice President of Customer Experience & Marketing at Summit Utilities. “By providing access to these programs, we’re not only helping children discover the excitement of science and technology but also encouraging them to explore future career pathways that can shape their lives and communities for years to come.”

About the Museum of Discovery:

Founded in 1927, the Museum of Discovery has been a beloved institution in Arkansas, dedicated to igniting a passion for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) through dynamic and interactive experiences. Located in the River Market District of Little Rock, the museum offers engaging exhibits and educational programs that inspire and educate visitors of all ages. To learn more, visit: museumofdiscovery.org.

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