Education Foundation Raises More than $200,000 Spurred by Miramar Matching Grant

By Jorge Casuso

January 7, 2020 -- The Santa Monica Education Foundation raised $213,000 in donations last month spurred by a $25,000 matching grant from the Miramar Hotel, Foundation officials announced Monday.

The total -- contributed by 286 donors between December 9 and 31 -- exceeded the Foundation's goal of raising $145,000 for STEM programs in Santa Monica schools that use "stretch grants" for funding.

December's campaign marked the fourth consecutive year the hotel and its owner have offered a $25,000 match, bringing the total raised to $709,000, Foundation officials said.

"The results of our matches with the Ed Foundation have been astounding," said Ellis O'Connor of MSD Partners.

"They are a superb example of what is possible when local businesses and families come together to support children."

The grants help fund programs that include STEM classes at Franklin, Grant and Muir Elementary schools and an app design elective at John Adams Middle School, Foundation officials said.

It also helps fund Project Lead the Way, a four-year engineering program at Samohi. whose students placed first for largest device at the 2019 Jet Propulsion Laboratory Invention Challenge.

"STEM programs in our Santa Monica schools are so important," said Linda Greenberg, the Foundation's executive director.

"In these classes, students design, invent and code," Greenberg said. "STEM prepares students for technology-based careers they may enter after graduation."

During the December campaign, two businesses -- SP+ Corporation and VCA Animal Hospitals -- offered $2,500 one-day Flash Matches for donations.

Annual donations and Ed Foundation endowments are funding $2.7 million in programs in Santa Monica schools this school year.

Fundraising for 2020-2021 school-year programs will continue through June 30, 2020 and include the Ed Foundation's fifth annual Santa Monica Wine Auction hosted by the Miramar on May 3.

The previous wine auctions have raised a combined $992,000 for local public schools.

For more information or to make a donation to support Santa Monica students, visit *http://smedfoundation.org*.