

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Project Exploration receives \$100,000 grant from Verizon**

**Chicago, IL** — Verizon has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Project Exploration to provide digital literacy, STEM education, and technology-related workforce development opportunities in under-resourced communities. This is a part of Verizon's commitment to increase digital inclusion nationwide by removing the barriers to economic prosperity and ensuring the benefits of technology are accessible to all.

From computer basics skills training to coding and more, the Verizon grant will help Project Exploration develop a project to support their Youth Science Pathway Programs whereby increasing economic mobility in communities of greatest need.

Project Exploration creates transformative learning opportunities for youth underrepresented in the sciences -- particularly students of color and girls -- by equipping them with the skills, practices, and mindset needed for a lifelong pursuit of learning.

Project Exploration has worked to change the face of science since 1999. With equity at its core, the non-profit serves youth from communities historically underrepresented in the STEM fields and recruit students who are curious and interested in science but may face challenges in accessing high-quality programs, such as academic prerequisites or program fees.

**About Project Exploration:**

Our programs deeply engage students in authentic STEM experiences, alongside STEM mentors who serve as role models. Through these programs and relationships, youth develop critical social and emotional skills, such as self-confidence, collaboration, communication, and leadership abilities along with STEM-related skills as well as a STEM identity. Since our founding, PE has reached thousands of middle and high school students through immersive afterschool and summer programs in neighborhoods where access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities may be limited. A ten-year longitudinal study completed in 2010 reveals that our students are three times more

likely to enroll in a four-year college than their peers, and over one-third of PE alumni major in a STEM-related field once in college. In 2009, we received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics, Science, and Engineering from the White House. In 2017, PE launched the West Side STEM Learning Center, a community STEM hub that seeks to amplify the value of STEM learning in Austin by providing youth with high-quality STEM programs and internships, while integrating family and community outreach. In addition to our citywide programming, the West Side STEM Learning Center reinforces our mission to provide high-quality STEM programs in communities where inequities to access STEM learning opportunities persist.

**About Verizon:**

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE, Nasdaq: VZ) was formed on June 30, 2000 and is celebrating its 20th year as one of the world’s leading providers of technology, communications, information and entertainment products and services. Headquartered in New York City and with a presence around the world, Verizon generated revenues of \$131.9 billion in 2019. The company offers voice, data and video services and solutions on its award-winning networks and platforms, delivering on customers’ demand for mobility, reliable network connectivity, security and control.

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