

**PRESS
RELEASE**

UNITED WAY OF METROPOLITAN DALLAS AND SPONSORS HOST STEM FEST TO SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Day of Activities on Oct. 27 Designed to Inspire Early Interest in STEM Careers

DALLAS (OCTOBER 26, 2022) – United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, along with presenting sponsor Texas Instruments and supporting sponsors Mr. Cooper Group and Vistra, will host STEM Fest on **Thursday, Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at JoLynn Maddox Teaching and Learning Center, 1533 High Pointe Ln in Cedar Hill**. With the help of 120 volunteers, approximately 200 sixth-grade students will engage in interactive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities to challenge their minds and inspire their imaginations.

“As schools across North Texas work to get students back on track following the challenges of remote learning during the pandemic, STEM Fest is an immersive and fun way to spark an interest in STEM education that will be critical to our future workforce,” said Jennifer Sampson, McDermott-Templeton president and CEO of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. “Education is a building block to pursuing a life of purpose, and we’re thrilled that our sponsors are joining us in showing students a path leading to a future of meaningful employment.”

Activities during STEM Fest include:

- **Machine Learning vs. Human Learning: Facial Recognition**, which teaches students some basic machine learning concepts with demonstrations using facial recognition software.
- **Earn Your Wings by Coding a Drone**, with students writing code to program and control a drone to take off and perform a maneuver.
- **Bridge Building**, teaching civil engineering design and principles as students build bridges from common building materials that will be tested for structural integrity and weight-bearing capabilities.
- **Balloon-powered Car**, with students designing and building their own balloon-powered vehicles.

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas encourages and promotes college and career readiness in many ways, from tutoring and mentoring students to supporting schools as they work to improve curriculum.

“Research indicates that students in Texas will need four to five years to fully recover from the learning loss experienced during the pandemic, and low-income students of color typically don’t have the kinds of enriched learning to make up for the education deficit,” Sampson said. “Through STEM Fest, our supporters stand with us in inspiring and preparing these students to compete alongside their peers in an economy with an increasing need for these important skills.”

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About United Way of Metropolitan Dallas: United Way of Metropolitan Dallas is a community-based social change organization that puts opportunity in the hands of all North Texans. Working with our determined supporters, we lead the charge to improve education, income and health—the building blocks of opportunity. We invite all change-seekers in our community to Live United to achieve lasting results right here at home. To give, advocate or volunteer, visit www.UnitedWayDallas.org.

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