

News Release

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Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Awards Recognize Outstanding Education for High-Demand Jobs

*Eight Community Colleges Awarded \$50,000 Each for Outstanding STEM Programs
Preparing Students for High-Demand, Skilled Jobs in Advanced Manufacturing, Energy,
Healthcare, and Information Technology*

Washington, DC, February 7, 2018 – The Aspen Institute and the Siemens Foundation today announced the eight-winning community college STEM programs of the first [Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award](#), in recognition of the outstanding preparation and education those programs provide students seeking careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Each of the winning programs will receive a \$50,000 award to use for bolstering their programs, attracting new talent and providing student scholarships.

The winning STEM programs range from nursing to telecommunications technology, and are hosted at the following community colleges: **Broward College, Central New Mexico Community College, Hillsborough Community College, Miami Dade College, Ozarks Technical Community College, Mitchell Technical Institute, South Central College, and Valencia College.**

There are more than five million jobs in STEM fields that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. These jobs pay wages that average more than \$50,000 annually. Yet, employers throughout the country are experiencing and projecting significant shortages of qualified workers in many STEM fields.

To respond, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and the Siemens Foundation have partnered to create the Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award to elevate

excellent middle-skill STEM programs at community colleges, the jobs these programs lead to, and the value they confer on students, their families, and their communities.

“There is a growing demand for specialized STEM skills that weren’t required a generation ago. Our nation is simply not developing enough talent in middle-skill STEM fields, limiting opportunity for individuals, growth for industries, and economic strength for communities,” said David Etzwiler, CEO of the Siemens Foundation. “Quality community college STEM programs are a pathway to job security and financial success for many students, and can help meet employer needs and strengthen our middle class.”

These community college program awards are now the first step in awarding scholarships to Siemens Technical Scholars, an exceptional group of diverse students from across the country who demonstrate excellence that matches the exceptional opportunities offered by today’s awardees. The 2018 Class of Siemens Technical Scholars will be announced in the fall. In a change from previous years, the Aspen Institute, in partnership with the community colleges that win the Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award, will select the students to be recognized as Siemens Technical Scholars. Students will be awarded scholarship funds between \$3,500 and \$10,000. Aspen will share those Scholars’ stories to showcase the economic opportunities provided through STEM middle-skill jobs.

“Our nation’s best community colleges are incredible engines of opportunity for students seeking rewarding careers in STEM fields,” said Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. “This award recognizes colleges that provide an excellent education for talented students from every community, delivering on the promise of social mobility and lifelong opportunity.”

2018 Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award Degree Programs

Broward College (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)	<i>Nursing</i>
Central New Mexico Community College (Albuquerque, N.M.)	<i>Electrical Trades</i>
Hillsborough Community College (Tampa, Fla.)	<i>Paramedic</i>
Miami Dade College (Miami, Fla.)	<i>Miami Animation & Gaming International Complex</i>
Ozarks Technical Community College (Springfield, Mo.)	<i>Dental Hygiene</i>
Mitchell Technical Institute (Mitchell, S.D.)	<i>Power Line Construction and Maintenance</i>
South Central College (Mankato, Minn.)	<i>Computer-Integrated Machining</i>
Valencia College (Orlando, Fla.)	<i>Network Engineering Technology</i>

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The Aspen College Excellence Program aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College

Excellence, the Siemens Technical Scholars Program, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of low-income and minority students on American campuses. For more information, visit <http://highered.aspeninstitute.org/>.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

The Siemens Foundation has invested more than \$100 million in the United States to advance workforce development and education initiatives in science, technology, engineering and math. The Siemens Foundation's mission is inspired by the culture of innovation, research and continuous learning that is the hallmark of Siemens' companies. Together, the programs at the Siemens Foundation are closing the opportunity gap for young people in the U.S. when it comes to STEM careers, and igniting and sustaining today's STEM workforce and tomorrow's scientists and engineers. For further information, visit <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/> or follow @sfoundation. Follow the Siemens Foundation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).