

PRESS RELEASE



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FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CAPSTONE/ASPIRE PROGRAM RECEIVES STEM GRANT FROM TOSHIBA AMERICA FOUNDATION FOR \$6,439

Farmington, CT (8/8/23) – The Farmington Public Schools and Farmington High School are pleased to announce it has received a \$6,439 STEM grant from the Toshiba America Foundation (TAF). These funds will support the Capstone - Engineering, Development, and Design and the ASPIRE - Mechatronics courses.

With these funds, students enrolled in these courses will be able to develop a holonomic drive system using a real-time 3d cartesian coordinate system for precise field localization and navigation using April tags. This will facilitate autonomous routing and delivery options. The physical system will be developed using commercially available advanced hobbyist components. The software will make use of publicly available code libraries as a basis for customization. Object detection and collision avoidance using emerging AI technology is a stretch goal of this project.

FPS Superintendent, Kathleen C. Greider, commends the TAF for their support and states, "The FHS ASPIRE/Capstone program promotes the skills and dispositions of Farmington's Vision of the Global Citizen through real-world, innovative, and interest-based mastery projects that aim to make a positive impact on our local and world communities. Through our ASPIRE/Capstone programming, FHS students utilize their voice and agency to select a bold project of interest, meet with experts in the field, engage in research, participate in internships, and publicly present their research findings and reflections aligned to Farmington's Vision of the Global Citizen. We thank TAF for their support of forward-thinking educational programming that advances students' knowledge and skills as leaders, changemakers, and empowered citizens of our local and world communities."

FHS Principal, Russ Crist, adds, "We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Toshiba America Foundation for their generous support of our ASPIRE/Capstone program. Community partnerships such as this allow us to provide students at Farmington High School with cutting-edge STEM experiences that help them to achieve our *Vision of the Global Citizen* and prepare them for the workplace of the future. The faculty and staff at Farmington High School are dedicated to the mission and vision of the

district and "believe that all students are capable of acquiring the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for productive, ethical, and responsible citizenship in an evolving world community."

Toshiba America Foundation's grants fund projects designed by individual classroom teachers. This "direct-to-teacher" approach brings immediate results. Teachers are able to change the way they teach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects because the grant supports equipment for hands-on experiments and inquiry-based approaches to the curriculum. At TAF, we believe that STEM is a lot more fun than just reading a textbook. TAF grants provide teachers with the tools they need to be more effective educators. The grants make the classroom a more exciting place for both teachers and students.

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About FHS Capstone/ASPIRE

These project-based courses align directly with our VOGC and allow students to commit themselves to a challenging independent learning experience focused on a personal passion, area of interest, and/or a possible career. Courses culminate with students presenting their work publicly. Currently, we have 113 students in 11 unique Capstone courses and 218 ASPIRE students in 20 unique ASPIRE courses.

About Toshiba America Foundation

Founded in 1990 with support from Toshiba Corporation and the Toshiba America Group Companies, Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) is a non-profit grant-making organization dedicated to helping classroom teachers make STEM learning fun and successful for K to 12 students in U.S. schools. TAF grants support public and nonprofit private schools throughout the United States. For more information, please visit: www.toshiba.com/taf.