

Santa Monica LOOKOUT

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Matching Grant from Miramar Hotel Kicks Off Ed Foundation's Last Fundraiser of 2019

By Lookout Staff

December 9, 2019 -- Supporters of Santa Monica public schools have until December 31 to match a \$25,000 grant to the Santa Monica Education Foundation from the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and its owner, the organization announced Monday.

The match is a welcome boost to the Ed Foundation's efforts to raise \$145,000 this month for STEM programs in Santa Monica schools that use "stretch grants" for funding, officials said.

The programs include STEM classes at Franklin, Grant and Muir Elementary schools and an app design elective at John Adams Middle School.

The donations also help fund Project Lead the Way, a four-year engineering program at Samohi, whose team is competing Friday in the finals of the 2019 Jet Propulsion Laboratory Invention Challenge.

"In all of these programs, students experiment, explore and innovate in hand-on activities," Ed Foundation officials said.

The Miramar and its owner, MSD Partners, L.P., will match all donations made to the Ed Foundation, up to \$25,000 starting today.

"One of our core values is the commitment to being actively involved in our community," said Ellis O'Connor of MSD Partners.

"Through our continued partnership with the Ed Foundation, we help keep Santa Monica schools strong, benefiting students and everyone who lives and works here.

"We hope the entire community will join us in supporting the children in our local schools," O'Connor said in a statement.

Matching grants from the Miramar and MSD have helped the Foundation raise nearly \$500,000 over the past three years.

At the start of the year, a \$25,000 matching grant spurred donations totaling \$150,119 from nearly 800 donors (["Santa Monica Education Foundation Raises \\$150,000 During Week-Long Match,"](#) February 5, 2019).

The nearly century old hotel and its owner "have been steadfast, committed partners for our children," said Linda Greenberg, executive director of the Ed Foundation.

"Their support helps ensure that all Santa Monica's students thrive in enriching arts, STEM, music and other important programs," Greenberg said.

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