

CEF

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**BUILDING  
THE  
FUTURE  
STEM  
WORKFORCE**

# A MESSAGE OF THANKS

CEF had an exciting 2023 as we continued building partnerships to expand our student and teacher reach. This past year, 400,000 students and 12,000 teachers were impacted by our programs and resources — four times the number served in 2022!

Included in that number are the thousands of students who participated in the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge and the five finalist teams who competed at the National Challenge in Houston, TX, this past June.

Congratulations to the Young Hoosiers of Indiana, the 2023 National Challenge Champions!

As the Challenge has evolved over time, so has our workforce. Today's STEM workforce, which will include the students impacted by CEF,

includes a far broader set of careers than envisioned when the Challenge began 20 years ago. There are many career options open to people with STEM backgrounds, such as sales, logistics and transportation, food technology, and chemists, to name a few.

Championing career options is what CEF does every day. With the support of our industry and education partners, we create STEM career awareness, so today's students see themselves as your future employees.

To our volunteers, parents, and teachers, who give countless hours of their time and expertise in making CEF's programs successful, and those who generously support CEF, we say thank you!

I am proud of all CEF has accomplished in 2023 and look forward to continuing our work to inspire students, strengthen communities, and build the future STEM workforce.

**Robert Moser, Jr., President of the CEF Board of Trustees**  
*Vice President of Corporate Relations and Government Affairs,  
Brenntag North America, Inc.*



# PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

# 400,000

STUDENTS REACHED THROUGH LESSONS, TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS, AND STUDENT COMPETITIONS

43%

students from economically disadvantaged schools

48%

students identified as female

52%

students identified as historically underserved

## THE CHALLENGE

The Challenge is a team-based competition for grades 5-8 that builds interest and excitement among students to continue science and STEM-related education throughout high school, skilled trades, and college.

Student teams collaborate using STEM curriculum to understand sustainability questions and community-based solutions. The Challenge incorporates essential skills such as critical thinking, effective communication, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving — the very skills required to thrive in their academic careers and as they enter the workforce.

# 6,000

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED



# TEACHER RESOURCES

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, CEF's programs and resources were offered for FREE to students and teachers.

CEF's Essential Elements is a research-based toolkit for educators, consisting of professional development workshops, webinars, and videos that build skills and confidence in teaching hands-on science.

CEF's Activity Guides are educator friendly, hands-on, inquiry-based science lessons that use inexpensive household items to teach science anywhere!

# 12,000

TEACHERS IMPACTED

## INVEST&EMPLOY

Employee engagement and industry volunteers are critical to the success of CEF's programs in communities nationwide. Through active industry support, students gain access to quality science programs and an increased awareness of the range and variety of STEM careers available to them.

It is important to begin science education early when student enthusiasm is high. CEF builds interest and excitement among students to continue STEM-related education through high school, skilled training, college, and into the workforce.



# FROM COMPETITION TO CAREERS: BUILDING TO 20 YEARS!



**Half a  
Million** student participants



**Quarter Million  
Dollars** in scholarships awarded



**10,000** volunteers  
and **60,000** volunteer  
hours



**CHALLENGE**

# FINANCIALS

For a full list of donors, visit [www.chemed.org/donors](http://www.chemed.org/donors).

**The Chemical Educational Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable entity. Our financial position remained strong in 2023 thanks to a network of committed donors and sponsors. Thank you to our contributors.**



- Program & Communications 75%**
- Operating & Governance 19%**
- Fundraising 6%**



**CEF** | Building the Future  
STEM Workforce

[www.chemed.org](http://www.chemed.org)    