



Grant Awarded to After-School All-Stars North Texas as part of Lights on Afterschool Celebration

Dallas, TX (11.21.17) – After-School All-Stars and their talented students, in partnership with Dallas Afterschool, are one of five grantees awarded by the Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) and Fluor Corporation. Over 723 afterschool programs celebrated Lights on Afterschool across Texas by completing the Fluor Engineering Challenge as part of their Lights On Afterschool celebration. Lights On Afterschool is a national day of advocacy that began in 2000 and celebrates the power of afterschool programs in supporting youth and families. Over 8000 events were hosted across the nation and with almost one million students and families.

The Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) is a statewide non-profit dedicated to increasing access to high quality afterschool programs across the Lone Star state. TXPOST partnered with Fluor to promote engaging STEM activities that could be implemented as a part of Lights on Afterschool celebrations. Fluor works with the expert team of scientists and educators at Science Buddies to adapt design competitions developed by its employees into student- and afterschool-friendly projects that provide young people with the opportunity to experience how real-life engineers design solutions and show first-hand how fun engineering can be.

Students at Life School Charter Oak Cliff Secondary, Felix G. Botello Elementary School, and Thomas C. Marsh Preparatory Academy were tasked with engineering sorting machines for Fluor's Engineering Challenge. Using only plastic cups, tape, straws, index cards, gravity, and trial and error, All-Stars successfully constructed machines that sorted apart beans, marbles, and rice. We saw several creative, successful sorting machines throughout the day. One winner constructed a multi-leveled sifter that sorted by size when shook. Another winner built a ramp that dropped each item into three different cups. Marissa Castro Mikoy, Executive Director of ASAS North Texas said, "We are proud to partner with Fluor to help our students make STEM learning come to life in a creative, engaging way."

Through the ASAS STEM Initiative, ASAS strives to eliminate disparities in access and exposure to STEM fields that exist between advantaged students and students from low-income backgrounds. As the STEM industry continues to grow, so does the need for professionals with STEM degrees, yet minorities account for only 9% of college graduates working in science and engineering.

"Students took on the Fluor Challenge in the supportive afterschool environment and demonstrated that all youth are engineers in the making. TXPOST is thrilled to partner with Fluor to offer this opportunity to afterschool providers as a part of Lights On Afterschool" said Alison Reis-Khanna, Executive Director of the Texas Partnership for Out of School Time. "This year's Lights On Afterschool

across Texas demonstrated how powerful hands-on learning can be in the afterschool space and its vital role in supporting youth and families across the state.”

Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) We convene, educate and advocate to strengthen the quality and availability of afterschool and summer programs for Texas kids. TXPOST is focused on working toward the day when every Texas child has access to high quality, innovative and enriching after school and summer programming. In partnership with local and regional networks and other stakeholders, TXPOST influences policies that support high-quality afterschool and summer programs, raises awareness of the role of after school and summer programming in Texas, increases connectivity and capacity of expanded learning system(s) and regional networks through coordinating initiatives, and leads projects that improve the quality of afterschool and summer programs. To learn more about how you can join TXPOST in advancing afterschool in the state of Texas, visit <https://www.txpost.org/get-involved/>.