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**DC-CAP LAUNCHES STEM INITIATIVE FOR DC HIGH SCHOOLERS, ANNOUNCES  
\$1 MILLION LEAD GIFT BY BOEING**

*Three “STEM Ready Centers” Now Up and Running, Additional Funders Sought  
to Support and Inspire Pursuit of STEM Degrees*

**WASHINGTON** (January 12, 2017) – The DC College Access Program (DC-CAP) today announced a major STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative that is now underway thanks to a \$1 million lead gift from The Boeing Company. The STEM Incentive and Scholarship Program (SISP) is designed to establish a culture of STEM achievement among DC high school students and aims to increase the number of graduates who are motivated and prepared to earn STEM and STEM-supported college degrees.

“DC-CAP’s strategy is to change the mindset and the trajectory of an entire population toward STEM achievement at the critical juncture of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade through intense academic support, incentive scholarships, exposure to STEM professionals and workplaces, and parent engagement,” said DC-CAP President & CEO Argelia Rodriguez. “We know that if we can help every student realize and work towards their STEM potential, they will be better academically prepared for college and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. Our ultimate goal is to help build a STEM culture throughout DC high schools, much like DC-CAP’s founding goal 17 years ago was to create a college-going and college success culture.”

The SISP includes:

- STEM Ready Centers that provide real-time, curriculum-aligned STEM content review classes, individual homework support and tutorial support for high school freshman and sophomores
- Incentive scholarships awarded for achievement in STEM core, honors and AP classes
- Parent engagement activities, and
- Programming – such as field trips, speakers’ bureaus, and mentoring – that puts students in direct contact with STEM professionals, career options and workplaces.

“Students’ motivation and ability to succeed in STEM courses, and eventually STEM or STEM-supported majors, depends on our ability to help them believe in their STEM potential and to understand that through hard work and perseverance they can and will succeed,” said Oren McClain, Ph.D., Director, STEM Incentive and Scholarship Program (SISP), DC College Access Program.

“Advancing STEM education is a high-priority for The Boeing Company,” said Tim Keating, Boeing senior vice president of Government Operations. “We see the DC-CAP initiative as a model in the DC area for creating a culture that supports STEM education and constructing pathways to STEM-related careers.”

## **Phase One: Three STEM Ready Centers Now Open**

The first three STEM Ready Centers are now open and serving freshman at Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC), Phelps Architecture Construction and Engineering High School (Phelps ACE) and Washington Mathematics Science and Technology Public Charter High School (Washington MST). Staffed by part-time math and science teachers reinforcing the current classroom curriculum and reviewing challenging topics, the centers are open afterschool from 3-6 pm Monday through Thursday throughout the academic year. By the 2020-2021 school year, STEM Ready Centers will be expanded to a total of six DC schools, impacting an estimated 2,700 freshmen and sophomores.

“We know that young people need to acquire the science, technology and math skills to compete and prosper in today’s economy,” said DC-CAP’s McClain, “so, first and foremost, STEM Ready Centers are designed to increase students’ success in the core courses necessary for pursuing a STEM or STEM-rich degree in college.”

### **Additional Funders Sought**

Boeing’s \$1 million lead gift to DC-CAP provided the essential funding to launch SISP. Additional funders are being sought to fully fund the initiative. Prospective supporters are encouraged to contact Jeanette Radford, Director of Development, DC-CAP, 202-783-7938 or [Jeanette.Radford@dc-cap.org](mailto:Jeanette.Radford@dc-cap.org).

“We are grateful for Boeing’s leadership and commitment to the future of DC’s young people and for their partnership in getting this important initiative off the ground,” said DC-CAP’s Rodriguez. “We now invite other corporations, foundations and individual donors to join us in preparing DC students to be STEM ready, college ready and career ready.”

“SISP is DC-CAP’s next step to breaking down barriers to college success,” added Rodriguez. “STEM-ready students have more choices of colleges to attend, more opportunity for scholarships, and are better prepared to progress academically and earn their degrees.”

DC-CAP’s mission is to give every DC student a chance at a college education and prepare graduates for employment and successful careers. When DC-CAP was founded in 1999, less than 25 percent of DC public high school graduates enrolled in college and only 15 percent went on to earn a college degree. Over the past 17 years, DC-CAP has played a leading role in doubling the rate of DC students enrolling in college and tripling the college graduation rate, having helped 27,000 students enroll in college and having celebrated the success of 8,000 who are now college graduates. This year alone, DC-CAP’s college resource centers located in nearly every DC public and public charter high school will reach 18,000 students and their families.

### **About DC-CAP**

DC-College Access Program (DC-CAP) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping *all* DC students prepare for, enroll in, and graduate from college as the cornerstone of a successful future. Since 1999, DC-CAP has worked with parents and educational partners, inspiring, counseling and providing fundamental support to help under-resourced DC students believe that college is possible, find the path to get there and complete their education. By building long-term relationships and connections, DC-CAP is with students every step of the way, navigating the complex waters of the college application and financial aid process, as well as providing integral support while in college. For more information, visit [www.dccap.org](http://www.dccap.org).

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