

# *Scientia*

**“Delivering Quality S.T.E.A.M. Resources To  
deserving communities and partners  
of distinction”**



**Building minds to secure a brighter tomorrow**

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## ***Executive Summary***

Scientia is a Florida non-profit that is committed to providing opportunities and resources in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) to organizations, schools, and students located in the Tallahassee community and around the globe. The overall objective of the institute is to invest in our children's future by bringing S.T.E.A.M. programs to low income communities. The early years of a child's life is the most critical time to stimulate the brain. It is in the early development period where their curiosity and motivation can be nurtured with process-oriented investigation, quality learning experiences and innovative games and projects.

All students, regardless of income, ethnicity, or sex, deserve the opportunity to be prepared with 21st-century skills for a future where most occupations will have some connection with S.T.E.A.M. learning. Recognizing the glaring disparity in S.T.E.A.M. learning in the United States compared to other countries, Scientia is compelled to act and provide funding for S.T.E.A.M. learning opportunities in all K-12 classrooms and communities by partnering with for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Our funding will go to towards scholarships for college and university, underwriting programs, workshops, camps, including tuition by partnering with for-profits and non-profits. Additionally, Scientia will commit to funding the procurement of guest speakers who are prominent in the fields of S.T.E.A.M.

## ***Mission***

Scientia exists to make students passionate about innovation and creativity, by encouraging an independent learning experience to ensure a strong and sustainable society. It is our desire to bring S.T.E.A.M. resources to communities that are lacking access and those with learning disabilities. We seek to unite diverse communities that equally demand a world of opportunity and hope. A world where their dreams are fortified in the scientific and technological strengths of S.T.E.A.M. which are the pillars of our global society. The greatness of one is rooted in the collective endeavors of all. Together we can forge a brighter future.



## ***Vision***

Scientia believes in the future of engineering, science, and the way it will impact the world for the better! Our focus is on the younger generation, and the ability to create passionate, highly skilled engineers and scientists. Scientia initiative is to establish an original approach for engaging young people and enticing them to enjoy learning and wanting to create.

Our commitment to the Tallahassee community is fortified in our future goals of building a S.T.E.A.M lab, where students experience channeled inquiry in which they must pose contemplative queries, uncover answers, utilize learn solutions, and problem-solve innovatively.

Scientia will introduce many people from a broad spectrum of society to the world of mathematics, physics, and engineering. We want to create a new generation of skilled engineers, which will lead us into the future.



## ***Goals***

Scientia is devoted in becoming a leader in providing opportunities for young people to create a brighter future while recognizing that their contributions through S.T.E.A.M. can help to build bridges and a better world.

Some specific short- and long-term initiatives of the nonprofit are as follows:

- Increase S.T.E.A.M. opportunities and access to resources for persons with disabilities.
- Build a S.T.E.A.M. lab. Florida has a limited number of lab spaces dedicated to the fields of S.T.E.A.M.
- Build a museum dedicated to S.T.E.A.M. related topics of interest.
- Establish a financial mechanism by which the Tallahassee communities can afford to participate in S.T.E.A.M. related events, programs, workshops, and camps.
- Build a central location where we can effectively host our programs and camps.
- Help to diversify S.T.E.A.M. fields. Currently, girls and minorities are underrepresented in STEAM related occupations.
- Create and administer the Lionel A. Henry Scholarship for medical students.
- Host 3-D and 4-D printing programs that will provide educational training, computer designs and creating models in a laboratory setting.
- Offer leading Computer courses that teach programming and coding.

## ***Overview***

Scientia is a non-profit corporation founded in 2020 dedicated to connecting children, young adults, and those with imaginative minds to the creative world of Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics S.T.E.A.M. Scientia will help build the leaders of tomorrow in STEAM-related fields of learning by pursuing initiatives that progress the opportunities of children to develop the skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of the future.

A significant objective of Scientia is to lay the foundations for continuous economic growth for Leon County and the City of Tallahassee as well as the surrounding areas. The nonprofit will also provide employment for a new set of technology workers who will enhance the level of innovation and expertise of tomorrow's workforce. We want to create a new generation of skilled engineers, which will lead us into the future and become a competitive country around the globe in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics.



S.T.E.A.M. is present everywhere in our society—from the manufacturing plant to the kitchen table to the downtown boutiques. It is important that every Floridian receives a strong foundation in science and mathematics accompanied by fluency with their applications to engineering and technology to be productive citizens and positive economic contributors to the state. Some of the most rapidly expanding job prospects for young Floridians are in the found in S.T.E.A.M. fields.

From computer programmers, medical workers, scientist, engineers of all types and other related professions, increasing demand to meet the needs of our state economy which is rapidly shifting to focus on information technology, advanced manufacturing and bioscience is very critical. And beyond mere employment, the daily lives of Floridians involve increasingly frequent encounters with S.T.E.A.M. concepts For example, disabled veteran who must balance the physiological benefits of a medicine against side effects, a city commissioner determining the environmental impact of a development, a jurist weighing DNA evidence at trial, a school looking to identify essential nutrients at mealtime for students, and a commuter balancing modes of transportation on convenience versus environmental impact.

Overall, the primary objective of Scientia is to establish a pipeline of success for the young people of all backgrounds in Tallahassee to a future of limitless possibilities as scientist, doctors, engineers and more. It is vital that as a nation, we place a greater emphasis on education, particularly in S.T.E.A.M., so that our young people will be competitive in the on-going effort to advance humanity into the next century.

## ***Disability Initiatives***

Our endeavor in S.T.E.A.M. education for students with disabilities has a strong focus on the incorporation of the arts to increase disabled students' S.T.E.A.M. knowledge and achievement. More students with disabilities of all types—from mobility impairments to intellectual disabilities—are enrolling in postsecondary education institutions than ever before.

Scientia will partner with local organizations to maintain a workshop that will be a multi-sensory educational experience, tailored specifically to a child's needs. Scientia will pursue working relationships with various organizations to offer an assortment of educational LEGO® activities and other S.T.E.A.M. endeavors for student with special needs including (but not limited to):

- Vision impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Limited mobility
- Pervasive development disorders (PDD)
- Attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Autism

Improving access to S.T.E.A.M. resources for students with disabilities will ultimately improve their academic performance and increase their presence of students of all genders, races, and abilities in fields of science and technology. It is vital to our nation and society that children with disabilities have the chance to contribute to society as active members in various S.T.E.A.M. occupations. Though it is a noble endeavor, we fully believe that our efforts will broaden participation, opportunities, and access for many students with disabilities.

## ***Community Benefits***

Scientia is dedicated to connecting diverse communities to the creative world of Science Mathematics Engineering Art Technology S.T.E.A.M. By establishing partnerships with organizations that offer a unique blend of programs and workshops, children and adults will have the opportunity to tackle global and local challenges, from the environment to health, by conducting creative experiments and research using Legos, robotics, coding, 3D and 4D printing, and software engineering. We understand the need to create a future of scientist, doctors, engineers and more. It is important to our young people that we provide them with a future where they can be constructive members of society. Technology can produce fertile learning environments leading to increased educational outcomes.

By connecting with community centers, schools, universities, and museums locally, we can conduct our innovative and creative programs, workshops, and camps that are unique in style and substance to the children and young people within the City of Tallahassee. We can build a pipeline of success for the young people in our community to a future of limitless possibilities as scientist, doctors, engineers and more.

Scientia is dedicated to helping students of all backgrounds, race, cultures, disabilities, and religions become emboldened operators and architects of technology. It will be committed to making Florida's capital city the cornerstone of the States digital and technological foundation. Our work establishes a



conduit to college and university for many of our local young people. As a city with two premier universities, a prominent community college and many leading institutions as well as organizations, Tallahassee is uniquely suited to become a hub of science, technology, engineering and the arts that will help improve the lives of the world and wellbeing of the planet.



When students engage in activities that merge different elements of S.T.E.A.M., they embark on an experience that lays the foundation for excellence and success. While many students grow up in homes in which they are taught how to build and fix things, a large segment of the population are not exposed to these important learning opportunities. S.T.E.A.M. projects provide students an opportunity to engage in hands-on and virtual, experiential learning. Students are often using different materials and tools to discover how something works, how to build it, and how to fix it. This levels the playing field so that all students attain these critical skills, regardless of their gender, socioeconomic status, or race.

American students particularly do not tend to do as well as students from other countries when it comes to global assessments that measure math, science, and problem-solving skills. STEAM programs, workshops, and camps offer students a prospect to problem-solve in distinctive ways since they are compelled to use a range of methods to solve problems that arise during these types of pursuits. By experiencing trial and error, learning how to take risks, and figuring out how to really “think outside the box”, students get away from the commonly used approach of applying a known method or formula to solve a set of problems in a step-by-step way. With STEAM, students are required to solve in more creative, non-linear ways. Our STEAM undertaking will help create a conduit for our nation to remain a leader in various fields of science and technology.

A large focus of Scientia will be to provide a pathway for young girls and women into S.T.E.A.M. they are by and large underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. By developing STEAM projects, this helps young girls become familiar with these fields at an early age. Early exposure can strengthen their chances of studying these fields further as they get older. Our imaginative and first-rate STEAM projects will still benefit our students in that they will be able to acquire the 21st-century skills to be leaders in various fields of human endeavor.



Another central focus of Scientia is to partner with various organizations and schools within the community of disabled persons. We seek to ensure that STEAM resources are available to such communities so that young disabled children have the same opportunity to build a productive future with unlimited possibilities.

As Scientia strives to make Tallahassee a tech hub of innovation and creation, many jobs will be created and attract pioneering companies as well as startups. The impact of Scientia's objectives will be a net positive for the City of Tallahassee and Leon County.

A last point of the benefit of Scientia is that our pursuit to utilize art in S.T.E.A.M. projects here in Tallahassee helps students understand how varied the arts are, and how they are an integral part of products that involve engineering, technology, and mathematics. The arts can help expand in S.T.E.A.M. projects since students can connect artistic mediums that they enjoy (like visual arts and music) with more technical projects that may seem daunting at first, such as building an app or programming a robot. They can combine the familiar with the unfamiliar, attaining new skills, and unearthing the world of artistic innovation.

## ***Governance***

### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors are the fiduciaries who steers the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting comprehensive, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies. It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure the nonprofit has sufficient resources and tools to advance its mission. Additionally, members of the board will be responsible for contributing to the organization's culture and environment as well as shape its strategic focus and financial sustainability. Lastly all board members will be responsible for serving as ambassadors and advocates for the nonprofit year-round.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive committee is a standing committee that meets shortly before the full board meeting and acts as a steering committee. It is responsible for maintaining the bylaws, policy review, board education, board self-assessment, new member orientation, and board succession planning. The Executive committee is tasked to review major issues that affect or impact the nonprofit and shall make preliminary decisions for discussion and voting at the next full board meeting.

## ***Board of Directors***

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*Board of Directors Members*