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**MEDIA ALERT**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BP Alaska, JEDC, and Alaska Afterschool Network Grant $24,000 to Support the Expansion of STEM Learning in Out-of-School Time**

(ALASKA) – BP, the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC), and the Alaska Afterschool Network have announced 16 awards totaling $24,000 in STEM Afterschool Innovation Grants across the state. Fifty-three applications were submitted, requesting more than $83,000.

STEM Afterschool Innovation Grants are small grants designed to help afterschool programs implement or expand high-quality science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning. Afterschool programs are defined as programs that take place outside of the regular school day – including before school, after school, and during the summer – and provide educational enrichment activities for students in grades K-12.

BP, JEDC, and the Alaska Afterschool Network are proud to support the expansion of STEM outside of regular school hours. Proposals were evaluated based on the positive impact on youth and incorporation of elements that indicate high-quality STEM programing.

Grantees include The Arc of Anchorage to purchase a Magnetic Levitation race track and cars, Sitka Sound Science Center to create a new one-week summer camp focused on automobile engineering, and the Kasilof Boys and Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula to build and operate a student-run bakery.

“These STEM grantees are engaging hundreds of Alaskan youth in innovative STEM learning during out-of-school time hours to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. It is critical for Alaska’s economy that we continue to invest in STEM learning in and outside of the regular school day,” said Thomas Azzarella, Director of the Alaska Afterschool Network.

For a complete list of grant awards, visit akafterschool.org.

The[**Alaska Afterschool Network**](http://www.akafterschool.org/) is statewide collaboration supporting, strengthening and advocating for afterschool programs in Alaska and is a project of the [Alaska Children’s Trust](http://www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/). Founded in 2013with a grant from the C. S. Mott Foundation and local support from the Alaska Children’s Trust, State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Rasmuson Foundation, Mat-Su Health Foundation, ExxonMobil, Association of Alaska School Boards, and Alaska Association for Community Educators. Contact [Thomas Azzarella](mailto:tazzarella@akafterschool.org), Director, for more information.

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