



Synergy and Strength Through Collaboration

2025 Annual Report



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In 1964, our founder, Tom Watts, saw children who deserved better, and he acted. The community rallied around his vision. When we first started, it was residents who believed in the vision, who sent their children, who volunteered their time. We are proud that as our reputation grows, so does our footprint across San Diego and the constellation of STEM professionals, alumni, and partners who share their time and talent to build the next generation of STEM leaders.

Today, as conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion face renewed scrutiny, we find ourselves returning to those first principles.

Our commitment remains unchanged.

The children who walk through our doors arrive with curiosity, potential, and dreams, representing exactly the diverse talent that San Diego's thriving biotech and tech sectors need. The data show that students of color and girls remain significantly underrepresented in STEM fields. Many families in San Diego continue to face inequities that limit educational opportunities. EIS is here to strengthen science foundations and build a STEM identity in young people who might otherwise never see themselves as scientists and engineers.

Your partnership matters more now than ever.

The EIS Learning Center is a place where the community comes together to think, work, play, and learn. The last 12 months have presented significant upheaval and challenges, yet STEM learning remains integral to success in the workforce. While others are retreating from equity work, we need champions who will lean in. The spirit of collaboration is essential for the greater good. When we all work together towards a common goal, we become stronger and more resilient. We are grateful for your collaboration and support.

Thank you for being a champion of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in STEM.



Sarah Tuakli Cooper
Executive Director



Touring EIS with San Diego Foundation
and San Diego Unified School District

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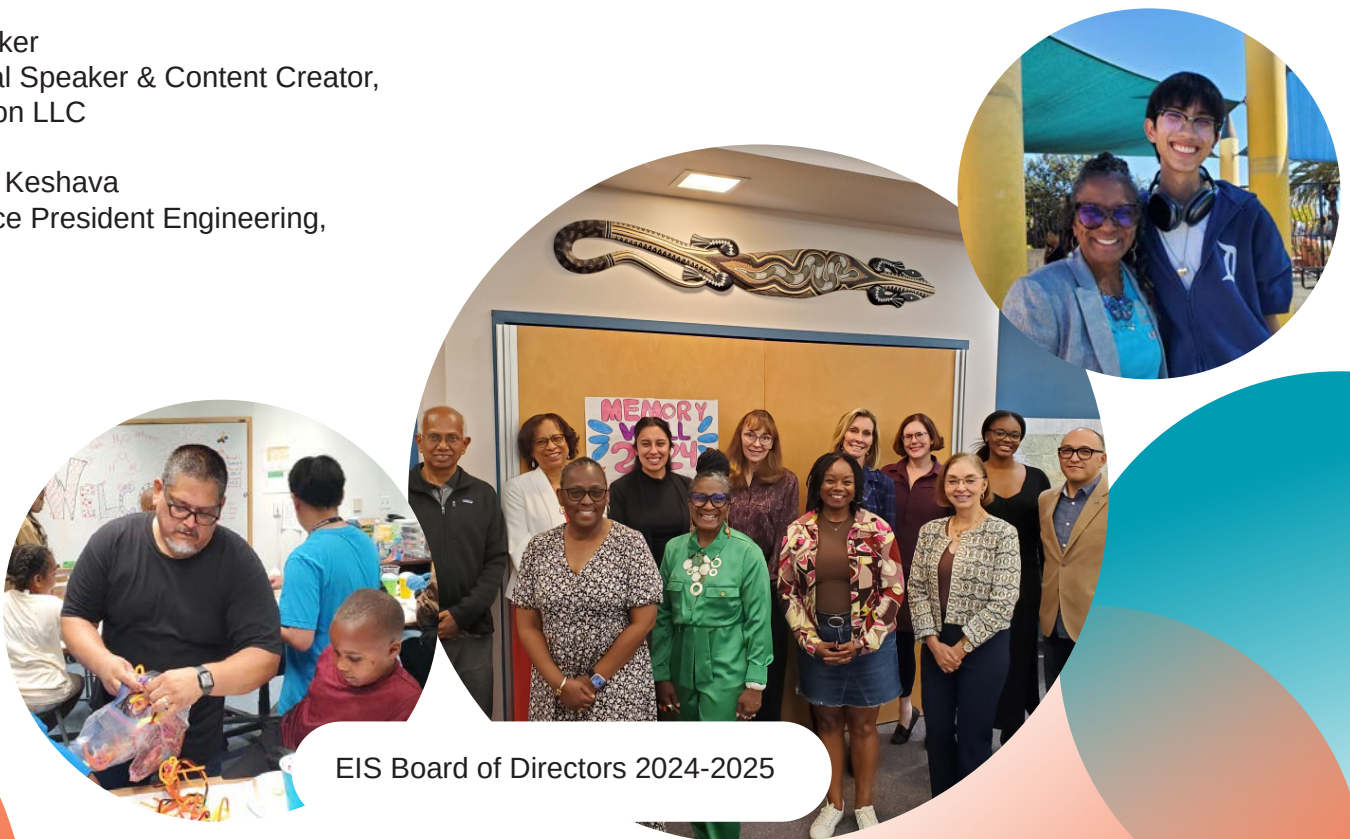
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EIS Board of Directors 2024-2025

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

At EIS, we have flourished thanks to the invaluable support of our friends, demonstrating the incredible power of collaboration. Together, we continue to uphold and celebrate our values and mission.

Synergetic School Partnerships

In 2026, our signature initiative, Steps to STEM, will reach its tenth anniversary. Sustaining what has been established is an achievement worth celebrating. The initial years of Steps-2-STEM were challenging, much like building a plane in midair, as we navigated new terrain. Now, eleven schools participate annually, and Steps-2-STEM has provided STEM experiences to 12,000 students to date, allowing us to broaden our impact each year.

A major achievement in 2025 was the launch of Learning2, a literacy and science program developed in partnership with Science Delivered over three years. Learning2 now serves the same schools and students as Steps-2-STEM at earlier grade levels, ensuring a continuum of STEM enrichment that will reach approximately 1,300 children each year, supporting academic growth from an early age.

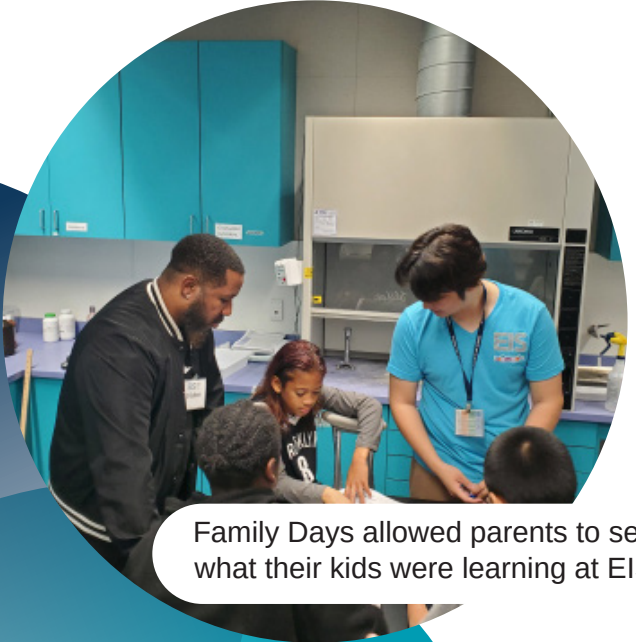
“

Students love going to EIS because they are learning hands on and remember core concepts. I know this because we just took the state test for 5th Grade Science. As I was walking around, they would call me to their desk and say, “We learned this at EIS!” - Teacher

”



Steps-2-STEM students learned with USD math student volunteers



Family Days allowed parents to see what their kids were learning at EIS



...and learned with UCSD medical student volunteers

EIS is fortunate to be located in the heart of our community, serving as a hub for place-based learning, forums, and events. Last year, more than 26 community groups held gatherings at the EIS Learning Center, with over 1,000 individuals attending community events, reflecting EIS's role in supporting local engagement and learning opportunities.

Building Community Connections

We are active throughout San Diego, expanding access to STEM education. By partnering with diverse community organizations and participating in local events, we introduce more students to the wonders of science and broaden the reach of our educational programs. These collaborative efforts help us connect with new audiences and grow our impact each year.



Hosting the San Diego 350 Youth 4 Climate Action Day



Connecting with families and students at Horton Elementary School



Girls Take Flight visited San Diego Gas & Electric for career exploration

VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

We are sincerely grateful to the many volunteers who add that extra spark to our programs. Our ability to provide exceptional STEM learning experiences is bolstered by volunteers. Whether they are youth, STEM professionals, or parents, each volunteer makes a difference.

74 STEM professionals volunteered - sharing their expertise as guest presenters and instructors - inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders.

50 youth volunteered as lab assistants in our camps, Saturday programs, and at community events. On Saturdays we have free tutoring for youth from first grade through senior year, thanks to high school students in the Mathemagicians and STEM professionals at The Giving Circle Foundation.

Additional volunteers include parents, friends, and our 15-member Board of Directors who help with governance, fundraising, and networking to help us build strong ties with the San Diego community.



“

Volunteering with EIS has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. Their mission of inspiring and empowering the next generation is something I deeply believe in, and I am grateful to contribute in any way I can. - Fernando

”

Volunteers led activities, helped at events, and shared about their STEM careers



High school lab assistants supported EIS year round

MENTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Employee volunteers from local STEM companies made a splash at our events this year. A few highlights included podcasting, kayaking, and trash cleanups.

Our Genetic Legacy, San Diego Gas & Electric, SheDrones, Desi Ekstein and EIS instructors helped make the 2025 Girls Take Flight drone program a success with 17 high school girls graduating.

Steps-2-STEM students participated in life science labs with employees at Bristol Myers Squibb, and medical students from the University of San Diego California and learned about the environment with San Diego Coastkeeper.

San Diego Gas & Electric, Athena STEM Women, BAE Systems, Cloudcast Media, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Perkins Coie, Anaptys Bio, Moores Cancer Center, and Jackie Robinson YMCA networked with high school students in our Tuesday SciTech Talks series.

Spring and summer campers explored STEM careers with volunteers at Miracosta College, Injected Senses Audio, the San Diego Air and Space Museum, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography.



High school students received support with FAFSA (Financial Aid) applications



Ocean Connectors and Out In Bio Kayaking and Bay Cleanup



Students learned about delivering science information via podcasting

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING



"I attended EIS 6th-9th grades, in STEM Fall and spring camps, BotBall, and I was a lab assistant. My favorite memory was my second year of BotBall, I loved my team and the enthusiasm we had for robotics! I still keep in contact with some of the girls. EIS was the first place to expose me to hands on science, as well as other STEM programs that I would never have imagined myself participating in. Kelsey Groom was my junior mentor for BotBall for about 2 years, and it inspired me so much seeing someone so young mentor other young girls!

Currently I am in my 3rd year of college, majoring in child development! I was a STEM instructor at EIS this summer and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be able to teach children and see how excited they get learning about different science topics." **Angelic, EIS alumna and current college student**

"The gender gap is across the world and having opportunities, specifically for female students is a great thing, so they know that other people are doing it. And having such mentors and opportunities, you are not fixated on a specific field, you invite a lot of different people and expose kids to all these different fields." **Leqah M., Parent of EIS students**

"EIS has had not only an impact on my son, but on our family. After each attendance he shares with genuine excitement about what he learned. Which is new for him because he is usually always so shy. It's allowed us to conversate in a way we never had before. The variation in courses from photography, geography, and astronomy have inspired me to be more involved in my son's education. It's given me the opportunity to share interest and facts about biology with my son." **Parent of Steps-2-STEM student**



"I learned so much. I thought we were just going to fly drones and get a certificate. But now I'm realizing the more I learn that drones can open so many doors in STEM which is where I want to go. I want to be an engineer or a research scientist. This has really showed me how much learning and getting your drone certification can give you a head start and open some doors." **Jasmine, Girls Take Flight participant**

"The Elementary Institute of Science (EIS) has given students a chance to pursue and apply for science as it connects to their life in the southeastern community of San Diego. When it was established, the men and women of the Board of Directors brought a new, fresh, and unprecedented program to help children learn and understand the concept of science. It continues to be a pleasure to support such a great educational institution such as this one, to give children a chance to one day major in a subject or become knowledgeable in this field." **Francine DeWitt-Haynes**

HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Are you ready to make a positive change in our community? Join our mission of inspiring a love of science and creating opportunity for diverse children and youth.

Become an EIS Volunteer

Inspire the next generation - share your STEM career journey as a guest speaker.

Network with high school students at a Tuesday SciTech Talk.

Tutor youth in one of our free Saturday programs.

Help with our next community outreach or fundraising event.

Follow EIS on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Bluesky, and YouTube!

Ready to make a lasting impact? Email us at info@eisca.org

Make a Financial Gift

Join our community of monthly donors by setting up a recurring donation.

Double your donation through your company's employee matching program.

Make a lasting gift for years to come. Set up an endowment gift that will help sustain EIS for the long run.

Donate through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF).

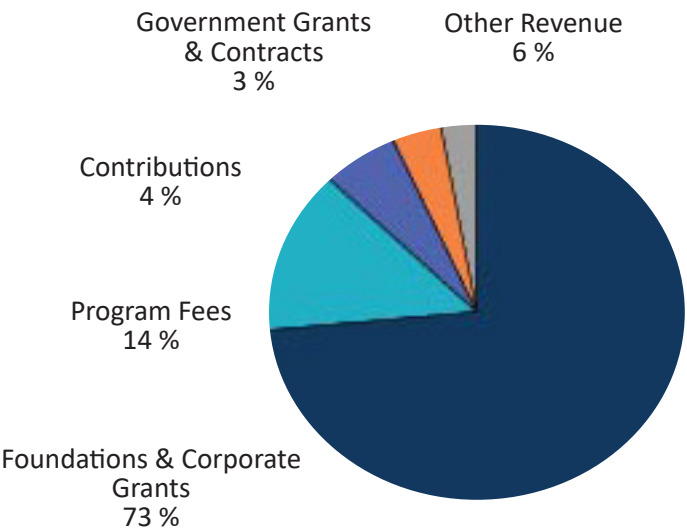
Make a one-time donation through our website or via check!

Whichever way you choose to give – we will make sure your donation supports equitable and quality hands-on education for the youth who need it most. Thank you for supporting our mission of inspiring a love of science and creating opportunity for diverse children and youth.

Scan the QR code or visit eisca.org to get started.



FINANCIALS

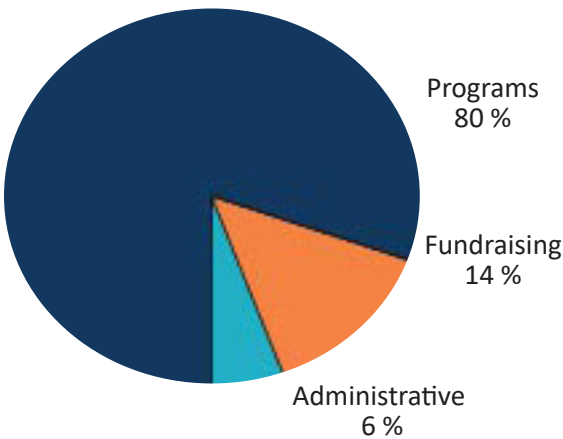


Revenue

Contributions	\$ 55,696.38
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$ 962,321.00
Government Grants & Contracts	\$ 39,714.50
Program Fees	\$ 173,727.05
Other Revenue	\$ 79,196.03
Total	\$ 1,310,654.96

Expenses

Programs	\$ 1,439,772.43
Fundraising	\$ 255,733.31
Administrative	\$ 112,995.90
Total	\$ 1,808,501.64



Financial information is pending the final audit report for FY 2024-2025

Special thanks to the friends and family who donated in memory of Jennifer Lynn Coleman Logan.

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Scan the QR code to learn more at eisca.org.

