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Contact: Grace McGlade, Director of Development
grace.mcglade@encorps.org | (310) 272-6854

Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation Supports EnCorps STEM Teachers Program

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Pictured Above (from left to right): Sara Minnehan, Director, Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation; Katherine Wilcox, Executive Director, EnCorps; Roger Anderson, Director, EnCorps

SACRAMENTO, CA – September 25, 2017 – The Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation has awarded **EnCorps STEM Teachers Program** a \$5,000 grant to support EnCorps’ recruitment and development of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) experts transitioning to teaching in Sacramento, as part of the “EnCorps: Serving to Inspire Students Through STEM” initiative.

EnCorps Executive Director, Katherine Wilcox, says, “STEM literacy is the fundamental building block of individual opportunity in our country. We are grateful for Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation’s support and endorsement of our mission to empower STEM professionals to transform public education by teaching in high needs schools.”

The EnCorps STEM Teachers Program is committed to transitioning corporate professionals, industry retirees and military veterans with STEM backgrounds into secondary school educators to teach and inspire interest in the essential disciplines of math, science, technology, and increasingly engineering and computer science, in California’s under-resourced public schools. EnCorps is rooted in the belief that experts in the field can best answer questions of relevancy around math and science. All students, and particularly those who are under-resourced, need role models possessing real STEM industry experience to connect classroom content to career and economic opportunities.



The Aerojet Rocketdyne (AR) Foundation, established in 1999, inspires the next generation of students through STEM education, improves STEM teaching and builds local partnerships to grow our nation's future workforce. Together, The AR Foundation and EnCorps are helping students excel in the classroom and prepare for career success by providing access to quality educators who connect learning to workplace relevance.

The AR Foundation's commitment will help EnCorps Teachers leverage their real-life industry expertise to inspire students to major in these critical disciplines, ultimately seeking STEM careers in great supply. This year alone, EnCorps is impacting more than 25,000 California students, low-income, girls and minorities in particular, who will in turn transform America's STEM and related economic competitiveness.

About EnCorps STEM Teachers Program

[EnCorps STEM Teachers Program](#) is the only nonprofit in the nation recruiting the best and brightest STEM professionals as an innovative, long-term solution to the shortage of high quality, impactful educators for under-resourced students in high needs schools. On average, [EnCorps Teachers](#) have 17 years of professional STEM experience and 68% have a Masters or PhD. EnCorps aims to increase the quantity and quality of STEM teachers to ensure that all students have access to first-rate STEM learning, to reverse the nation's decades-long decline in math and science, and to develop a workforce pipeline based on 21st century skills. One decade into its mission, EnCorps has impacted more than 60,000 California students and boasts a teacher retention rate of nearly 90%, well above industry standard. Please join EnCorps in solving the STEM teacher shortage and providing students with the STEM literacy necessary to take part in the U.S. economy and solve the biggest problems of the 21st century. Contact Grace McGlade at grace.mcglade@encorps.org to contribute to EnCorps.

About Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation

[The Aerojet Rocketdyne \(AR\) Foundation](#), formerly GenCorp Foundation, the individual philanthropic arm of the company and its U.S.-based subsidiary companies, Aerojet Rocketdyne and Easton Development Company, was established in 1999 to provide charitable resources in the communities where the company does business and where its employees live, work and volunteer. With a commitment to STEM Education, the AR Foundation seeks to inspire students' excitement about STEM; improve STEM teaching, and support STEM partnerships with schools and nonprofit organizations. Since 1999, the Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation has contributed more than \$12 million to schools and nonprofit organizations through grants, scholarships and matching gifts. In 2016, the Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation contributed \$281,227 in grants, matching gifts and scholarships.