



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Boeing Awards \$60,000 to Firewheel STEM Institute to Expand STEM Education and Community Programs

**CHANDLER, Ariz. — September 15, 2026** — Firewheel STEM Institute is pleased to announce a **\$60,000 contribution from Boeing** to support STEM education, community outreach, robotics, and hands-on learning opportunities for students and families throughout Arizona.

The contribution will support several of Firewheel STEM Institute's key programs and initiatives, including:

- **Mobile STEM Center** — Bringing hands-on STEM activities, equipment, and learning experiences directly to schools, community organizations, and events throughout Arizona.
- **STEM Center Facility Use** — Supporting access to Firewheel's Chandler STEM Center, where students, robotics teams, educators, and community partners can use specialized equipment and collaborative STEM spaces.
- **STEM Workshops** — Providing hands-on workshops that introduce students and community members to engineering, robotics, manufacturing, electronics, 3D printing, and other STEM disciplines.
- **Maintenance and Administration** — Helping maintain the equipment, facilities, and infrastructure necessary to operate Firewheel's programs and make STEM resources available to the community.
- **National Underwater Robotics Challenge (NURC)** — Supporting Firewheel's annual underwater robotics competition, which challenges student teams to design, build, program, and operate underwater robotic systems.
- **Jeep Hack** — Supporting a community service initiative in which students and volunteers modify ride-on toy vehicles for children with mobility challenges, providing greater opportunities for independent movement and play.

"We are incredibly grateful to Boeing for this investment in Firewheel STEM Institute and the young people and communities we serve," said **Faridodin "Fred" Lajvardi, CEO of Firewheel STEM Institute**. "What makes Boeing's support especially meaningful is that it reaches across so many areas of our organization. It helps us bring STEM directly into communities, open our facility to students and teams, provide hands-on workshops, host an underwater robotics competition, and use engineering to make a direct difference in the lives of children through Jeep Hack."

Firewheel STEM Institute works to remove barriers to STEM education by providing students with opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences. Its Chandler STEM Center serves as a hub for robotics, engineering, fabrication, workshops, and community collaboration, while its



Mobile STEM Center extends those opportunities to schools and communities throughout Arizona.

The Boeing contribution will help Firewheel continue expanding these efforts while maintaining the equipment, facilities, and infrastructure necessary to provide high-quality STEM experiences.

“Partnerships with companies like Boeing allow us to provide opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach for many students,” Lajvardi added. “This investment helps us not only introduce young people to STEM, but also give them a place to develop their skills, work alongside mentors, solve real-world problems, and begin seeing themselves as the engineers, scientists, technicians, and innovators of the future.”

## **About Firewheel STEM Institute**

Firewheel STEM Institute is an Arizona nonprofit organization dedicated to bridging the STEM divide by providing accessible, hands-on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Through its STEM Center, Mobile STEM Center, robotics programs, workshops, competitions, and community partnerships, Firewheel creates opportunities for students to learn, build, innovate, and develop the skills needed to become the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians, and problem-solvers.

## **About Boeing**

A leading global aerospace company and top U.S. exporter, Boeing develops, manufactures and services commercial airplanes, defense products and space systems for customers in more than 150 countries. Our U.S. and global workforce and supplier base drive innovation, economic opportunity, sustainability and community impact. Boeing is committed to fostering a culture based on our core values of safety, quality and integrity.

## **Media Contact**

**Faridodin “Fredi” Lajvardi**

CEO

Firewheel STEM Institute