

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Authorize a Special Appropriation grant agreement with Airway Science for Kids (ASK) in an amount not to exceed \$28,500 to expand their Teen Flight program to NE Portland (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Airway Science for Kids (ASK) GRANTEE is a non-profit corporation that has been engaging low-income youth in unique opportunities to learn about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through the exciting world of flight since 1992.

According to the Oregon Employment Department, demand for STEM occupations is increasing rapidly. However, many students of color in Portland are falling behind in STEM subjects, and may be unable to compete for these jobs. Among all eighth graders in the Portland Public School District (PPS) in 2013-2014, 66% met/exceeded standards for mathematics and 67% for science. However, among African American students those rates were just 37% and 30% respectively. Latinos fared only slightly better (46% for math; 43% for science). Research shows that employees in STEM jobs have lower rates of unemployment and higher average salaries than non-STEM workers. (U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, 2011) ASK seeks to create more equitable access to STEM jobs by providing education and inspiration to children and youth of color.

Launched in 2009 in Hillsboro, Teen Flight has been well received by youth, parents, partners, volunteers, and funders. Teen Flight classes are centered on hands-on, project-based instruction, high expectations, and rigor, as youth work together to build an RV-12 airplane, one of the most revered kit planes in the world. Curricula are intentionally focused on fostering a love of learning and creating pathways to career and post-secondary education. This project will launch a new Teen Flight program in NE Portland.

ASK's teen flight program will target youth from underserved communities and students of color with an emphasis on reaching girls; populations who are underrepresented in STEM occupations. The project would support a new NE Teen Flight program that will target 15 high school students of color who attend schools in N/NE Portland with high rates of poverty.

In fall of 2015, ASK began a preliminary NE Teen Flight project with a group of students who are developing advanced skills and STEM/aerospace concepts and applying them to designing and building a drone aircraft. This project will build on the success of their drone program by engaging at least 15 youth in N/NE Portland in the 12-month process of building an RV-12. Programming will be led by our NE Teen Flight Coordinator and a group of instructors who will receive a modest stipend. This year, for the first time, they are engaging past Teen Flight graduates as instructors for the new class.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

Funding for this grant is available in the FY2016-17 budget in the General Fund Special Appropriations.

Community impacts and community involvement:

From their application:

"Positive Impact

All ASK programs focus on providing culturally appropriate instruction for our youth of color. Applications and information is provided in Spanish and English. Moreover, curricula are intentionally designed to be culturally targeted. For example, we incorporate a history lesson on the city of Vanport and focus on African Americans' influence on Portland's STEM industry. We regularly spotlight women, Latino, and African American pilots.

ASK recognizes that schools -- and in particular higher education institutions -- are often not considered welcoming places by students and families of color. We work to break down this barrier by making our students and their parents feel comfortable on school and college campuses, interacting with college students, and encouraging students to focus on school and post-secondary/career aspirations.

Building Capacity

The experiences our students have at Teen Flight, while fun and exciting, are also a ticket that can launch them deep into careers and educational pursuits in STEM fields. NE Teen Flight will incorporate components steering students toward STEM careers and post-secondary pathways. Our new strategic plan includes an increased focus on providing Career Technical Education (CTE). ASK is working to bring Teen Flight into clear alignment with school district's academic criteria, in order for us to be able to offer CTE and/or elective credits for Teen Flight students.

Representing the Community we Serve

ASK instructors and staff are highly diverse; 80% are persons of color and 70% are women. We work to expose our students to professional speakers in STEM fields so that students can see themselves reflected in these role models.

We are founded and led by individuals who represent the community we serve. ASK was founded and run for many years by retired air force engineer and aerospace enthusiast Bob Strickland, a leader in the African American community in North Portland, before his death in 2008. ASK's board president, Johnell Bell, is the Director of Diversity and Transit Equity for Tri-Met and co-founder of the Black Parent Initiative. Lead by Johnell, ASK entered a period of strategic planning after Bob's death, which culminated in the hiring of Jackie Murphy to be ASK's first paid Executive Director. Jackie is one of the few women of color in Oregon currently leading a STEAM organization. ASK has an 9-member board of directors made up community leaders, including two members who are African American, one who is Hispanic, and four who are women."

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**

- ☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.
☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount