

Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success Foundation™

WHO WE ARE

CPASS is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to expanding access to healthcare and STEMM pathways for Illinois students from all backgrounds—especially those historically underrepresented and under-resourced.

We attract, encourage, educate, and guide promising students toward success in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) by providing a strong educational foundation and equitable access to critical resources and opportunities.



VISION & MISSION



Vision

CPASS envisions a future where all talented students are empowered to rise as leaders in STEMM by:

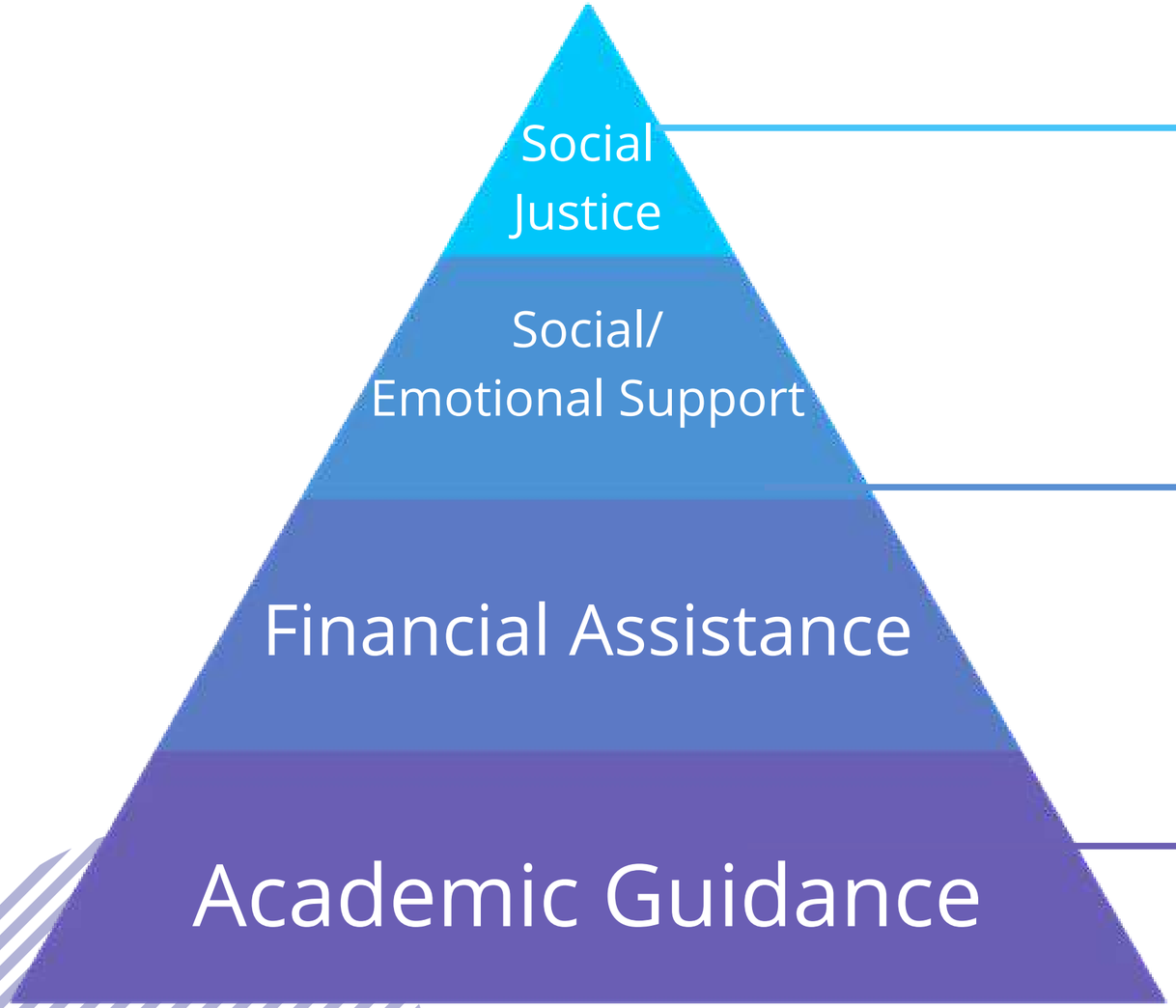
- Transforming professions
- Advancing Innovation
- Creating a more equitable and healthy world

Mission

CPASS empowers Illinois students from all backgrounds—including those historically underrepresented and/or under-resourced communities o pursue and persist in STEMM & health careers through:

- High quality, immersive programming that expands opportunity
- Strengthens STEMM identity
- Develops the academic, leadership, and personal skills needed to serve as confident advocates and lead meaningful, positive change in their communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES





Social Justice & Health Equity
is the key to sustainable change

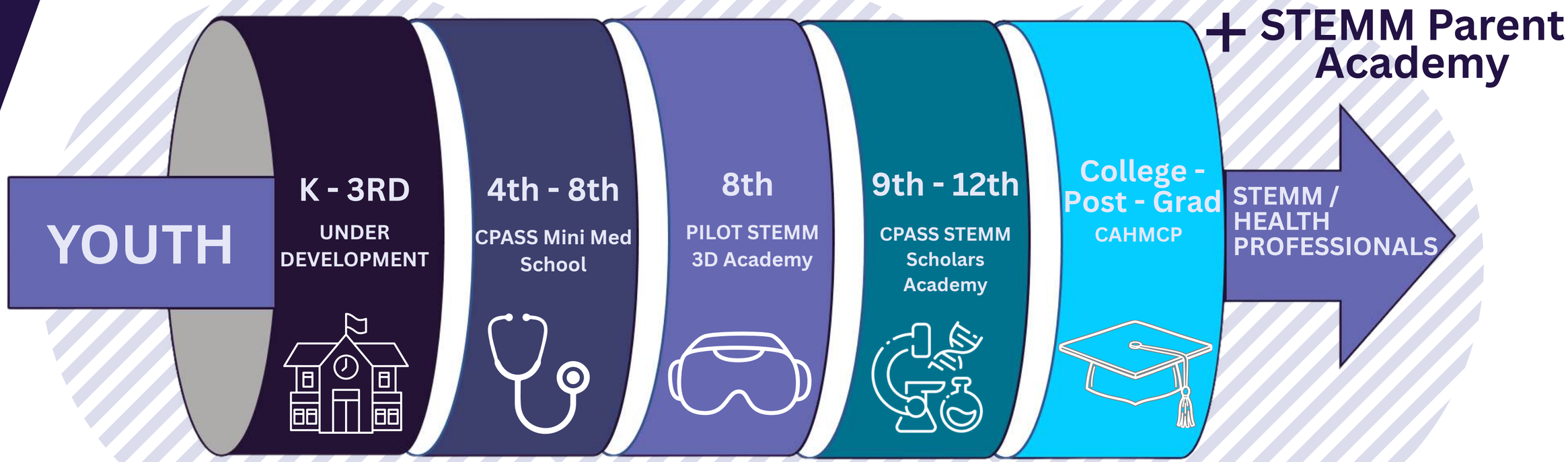


Financial assistance & Social Emotional Support
are a necessity for the demographics of the students we recruit.



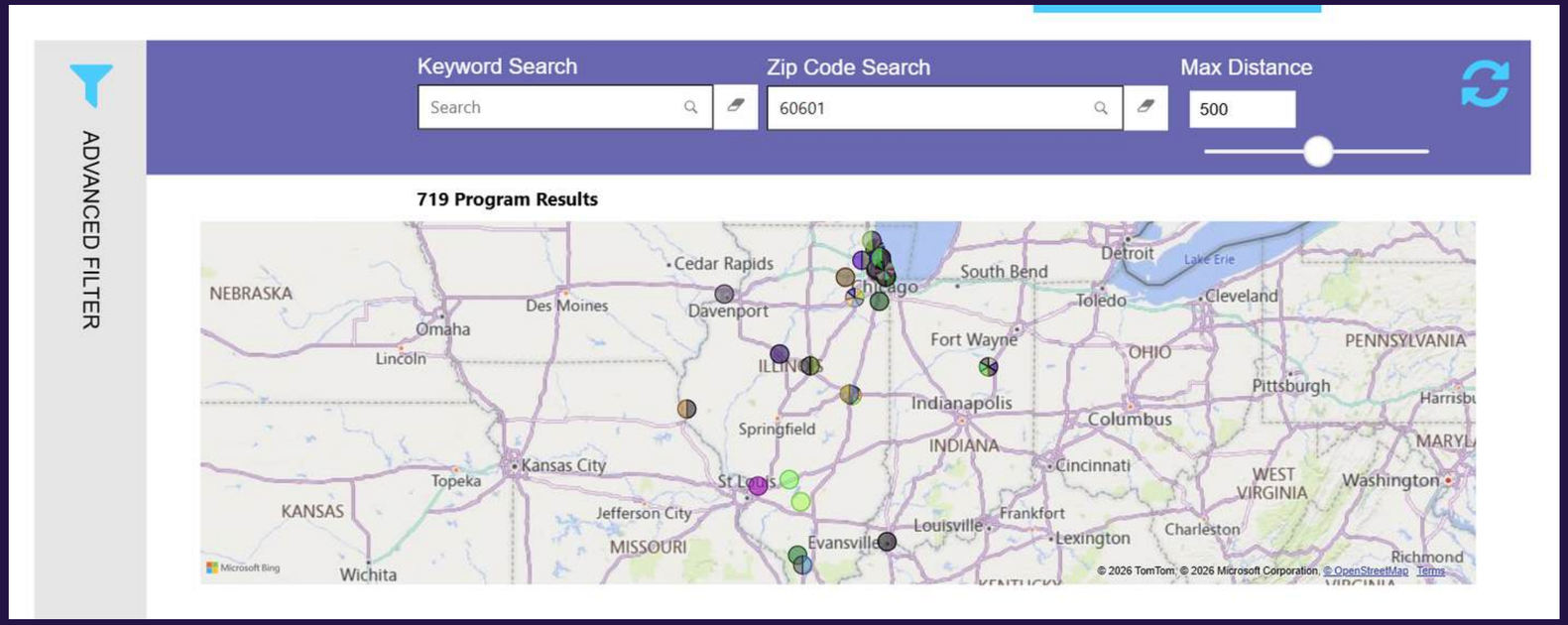
Academic Guidance
is foundational, it is the throughline for all of our programs.

CPASS PIPELINE TO STEMM CAREERS



STEMM PROGRAM SEARCH TOOL

Families, students, and educators can quickly find STEMM/STEAM opportunities across Illinois using CPASS's search platform, connecting scholars to virtual and in-person programs, classes, camps, after-school, and workforce experiences.



Platform Highlights:

- Search by keyword, location, or radius
- Filter virtual and in-person programs
- Includes camps, courses, activities, and after-school
- Serves students across Chicago and Illinois
- Continuously expanding through community submissions

Community Engagement Feature:

Organizations can apply to join the database, strengthening collaboration and expanding access to quality STEMM opportunities.

OUR APPROACH

What makes CPASS different?

Hands-On



Immersive learning experiences

Partnerships



Partnerships with leading universities and organizations across Illinois

Academic



Academic enrichment and leadership development

Equitable Access



Equitable access to exclusive career development resources

Networks



Strong mentorship and professional networks

Holisitc



Longitudinal programming from elementary school through medical school

OUR PROGRAMS

Hands-on STEMM & STEAM Education

CPASS programs serve elementary through college-level students across Illinois. Our leaders introduce growth goals, provide consistent guidance toward degree attainment, and create clear pathways to workforce development.

Broadening Access. Building Pathways. Transforming Futures in STEMM.

CPASS Mini Med School

CPASS STEMM 3-D



STEMM Scholars Academy

Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program™(CAHMCP)

STEMM Parent Academy

CPASS MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL

Illinois elementary students explore the human body through hands-on learning on medical school campuses. Grades typically span 4th–6th*, depending on location.

Current Locations:

- Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School
- Rush University Medical School
- University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria
- *Coming soon - Carle Illinois College of Medicine*

Locations outside of Illinois

- Ponce Health Sciences University
- Palmdale Regional Medical Center

*Curriculum through 8th grade will be made available in Fall 2026









CPASS STEMM 3-D

Grades 8–9 | Free| Pilot Program

- STEMM-3D puts a virtual reality headset directly in the hands of scholars — no cost, no transportation barrier.
- Scholars complete 3–5 hours per week of immersive, curriculum-aligned VR lessons in math, science, and more.
- Strong participants are prioritized for entry into the full CPASS Scholar Pathway.









*Current pilot program. Program details, eligibility and avaibility subject to change. See our website for most updated details.

STEMM SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The STEMM Scholars Academy provides Illinois high school students with a fully funded, three-year immersive experience designed to build academic excellence, professional networks, and college readiness for healthcare and STEMM careers.

CPASS FOUNDATION STEMM SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Program Highlights:

- Five-week residential summer experience
- Academic-year programming
- College-level coursework with real professors
- Hands-on laboratory experiences
- Scholars earn college credit
- Long-term mentorship and leadership development

Recruitment Season: October – February









CHICAGO AREA HEALTH AND MEDICAL CAREERS PROGRAM™ (CAHMCP)

Program highlights

We support students underrepresented in medicine through:

- Financial support for USMLE® Step exam registration fees
- Access to Kaplan® test preparation courses
- Reimbursement support for ERAS® and residency interview expenses
- Professional development and career advancement resources









STEMM PARENT ACADEMY

Supporting Families | Kindergarten–College

The STEMM Parent Academy empowers parents and guardians with tools, resources, and strategies to raise a “STEMM-Ready” scholar.

Program Structure:

- Curriculum aligned to scholar age groups
- Sessions are 1.5–2 hours each
- Parent Academy format is currently evolving based on needs of parents
- Sessions are recorded and shared exclusively with CPASS families









HIGHLIGHTS & SIGNATURE MOMENTS

CPASS Impact in Action

College Credit While in High School

STEMM Scholars Academy participants can earn college credit while in high school. This experience strengthens academic readiness, confidence, & long-term persistence in STEMM pathways.

Societal Impact Recognition

CPASS received the Societal Impact Award from the Chicago Council on Science and Technology in recognition of our work expanding equitable access to STEMM education and careers.

Annual STEMM Pathways Symposium

The CPASS Annual Symposium convenes leaders across healthcare, education, and philanthropy to celebrate student success and advance conversations around health equity and workforce diversity.







OUR PARTNERS

CPASS partners with leading universities and innovative nonprofit organizations across Illinois to deliver high-impact programming.

HEALTH & MEDICINE POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

CCPA PHYSICIANS

Math with BEEs INC.

MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL RUSH

STEAM Camp GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

UIC

TheChicagoSchool

Roseland Matters

Medical Organization for Latino Advancement

STEMM OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE

ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY of MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

SIU CARBONDALE

GRIFFIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE+INDUSTRY

LEWIS UNIVERSITY A Catholic and Lasallian University

MEET OUR TEAM

Leadership & Staff



Executive Director

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., PhD, MPH



Associate Director

Tracie Screven



Program Director

Asia Lawrence



Sr. Marketing & Comms. Specialist

Brittany Nunez



Director of Curriculum

Katey Sheets



Executive Director

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., PhD, MPH

A nationally recognized healthcare executive and authority on population health. Former President of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care and senior leader at the American Hospital Association. Previously served as Health Commissioner and COO for the Cook County Department of Public Health and a senior executive within the Cook County Health & Hospitals System.



Associate Director

Tracie Screven

An accomplished technical professional with deep expertise in project management and strategy. Former R&D leader at Kraft Heinz and Midwest Regional Program Director at SMASH, where she launched SMASH Illinois and developed STEMM programming for Black and Brown students.

OHIO STATE



Program Director

Asia Lawrence

A first-generation college graduate with global education experience and extensive youth development leadership. Former SMASH Program Coordinator and iD Tech Site Director, Asia brings a passion for education, diversity, and advancing underrepresented scholars in STEMM.

Georgia State University



Sr. Marketing & Comms. Specialist

Brittany Nunez

A decade-seasoned marketing professional and first-generation college graduate with expertise in brand strategy, communications, and growth marketing. Brittany is deeply committed to increasing access to higher education and STEMM careers for underrepresented communities.

IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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Director of Curriculum

Katey Sheets

A first-generation college graduate and chemist-turned-semiconductor scientist with expertise in materials science, curriculum development, and research leadership. Katey brings 7 years of hands-on experience in chemical mechanical planarization and a deep commitment to making quality STEMM education accessible to students who face barriers beyond their control.

LEWIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Eric E. Whitaker, MD, MPH



Treasurer & Director

William A. McDade, MD, PhD



Director

Laura Lucero, MD



Secretary & Director

Terry Mason, MD, FACS



Director

Coretta Patterson,DVM, DACVIM-SA



Chairman

Eric E. Whitaker, MD, MPH

Dr. Whitaker is a nationally recognized public health leader and expert in health equity. A CAHMCP alum, he previously served as Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and held senior leadership roles at the University of Chicago Medical Center advancing community-based research and population health initiatives. He is also the founder of Project Brotherhood, an award-winning program improving health outcomes for African American men. As Chairman, Dr. Whitaker provides strategic leadership to strengthen CPASS's STEMM pipeline and community impact.



Director

Laura Lucero, MD

Dr. Lucero is a family medicine physician with more than 20 years of clinical experience serving diverse communities in Chicago. She currently serves as Chief Medical Officer at Beloved Community Family Wellness and is a proud CAHMCP alum whose career reflects the power of mentorship and early exposure to healthcare careers. Passionate about reducing health disparities, she supports CPASS through mentorship, program insight, and community engagement.



Secretary & Director

Terry Mason, MD, FACS

Dr. Mason is a respected physician and former Chicago Health Commissioner with extensive experience in healthcare leadership and public health strategy. As Chief Operating Officer of the Cook County Department of Public Health, he has led initiatives in disease prevention, emergency preparedness, and community wellness. Widely recognized for his health education and advocacy work, he brings strategic and clinical expertise to CPASS's mission.



Treasurer & Director

William A. McDade, MD, PhD

Dr. McDade is a board-certified anesthesiologist and nationally respected academic leader in medical education. He has served as Deputy Provost and Professor at the University of Chicago and previously as Associate Dean at the Pritzker School of Medicine, focusing on student success and inclusive excellence. His experience across clinical practice, research, and institutional leadership supports CPASS's strategic growth and financial stewardship.



Director

Laura Lucero, MD

Dr. Patterson is a veterinarian, educator, and academic leader dedicated to expanding opportunity in the health professions. She serves as the founding dean of the proposed Chicago College of Veterinary Medicine at Midwestern University, where she is developing a new veterinary program to prepare future professionals. She serves on the board of the CPASS Foundation, where she supports efforts to expand access and inspire the next generation of health professionals.



OUR STORY & LEGACY

Established in 2018, the CPASS Foundation represents the next chapter of a long-standing commitment to diversifying healthcare and STEMM professions.

Through mentoring, hands-on instruction, and alumni engagement, CPASS exposes students to career paths they may never have considered possible—and supports them every step of the way.

WHY CPASS



Pipeline

Proven, scalable STEMM pipeline model

Partnerships

Deep institutional partnerships across Illinois

Credibility

Trusted leadership with national credibility

Alumni & Community

Strong alumni and community engagement

Commitment

Commitment to equity, access, and measurable impact

GIVING & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES



$25-$99 — **Access Builder**

Provides program materials and STEMM learning resources for scholars

$100-$249 — **Opportunity Champion**

Supports workshop facilitation and academic enrichment experiences

$250-$499 — **Scholar Advocate**

Helps fund hands-on labs, mentorship, and professional development

$500-$999 — **Pathway Partner**

Contributes to residential programming and college readiness support

$1,000+ — **Future Leader Investor**

Expands scholarships, test prep resources, and career pipeline initiatives

IMPACT: EVERY CONTRIBUTION HELPS REMOVE BARRIERS AND STRENGTHENS CPASS'S STATEWIDE STEMM PIPELINE.

THANK YOU

Creating Pathways.

Expanding Access.

Transforming Futures.



Contact Us

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CPASS FOUNDATION