



An educator looks at a student's work at the 2016 Colorado Education Initiative Showcase. *Provided by Melissa Reeves*

# Boeing and Lockheed sponsor STEM projects

By **Melissa Reeves**  
*YourHub Contributor*

The Boeing Company and Lockheed Martin are donating time, talent and financial resources to Colorado middle school classrooms. At the 2016 Colorado Education Initiative Showcase, these two companies announced the launch of a STEM mentorship pilot in a partnership with Colorado Education Initiative and the University of Northern Colorado to measure the impact and outcomes of industry and school partnerships.

"The STEM mentorship pilot will provide an opportunity to learn about the needs of business volunteers and schools. This will help us learn how to build sustainable partnership models to widen the talent pipeline into our STEM workforce," said UNC's Kristin Klopfenstein, executive director of education innovation.

Three to five schools will be selected to participate in the pilot to implement project-based learning STEM classes. STEM industry professionals will work with teachers to create projects that solve real-world, industry-designed challenges. The pilot will reach 75-125 students. Schools can apply at

[bit.ly/29oiXqe](http://bit.ly/29oiXqe) before Aug. 13 for an opportunity to join the pilot.

"We know that partnerships among industry professionals, teachers, and schools lead to the development of real-world skills and competencies for students and leadership development for STEM professionals," said Lockheed Martin's Blake Davis. "Now we want to measure these outcomes and ensure our students and employees have access to high-quality partnership experiences. This will increase the number and diversity of Colorado learners who are prepared and excited to work for Colorado companies like Lockheed Martin."

"Boeing is celebrating its centennial this year," said Boeing executive David Eddy. "Strategic investments in partnerships like this will help us build a future workforce and strong communities for the next 100 years. Beyond financial support, when we offer our time and employees' talents to achieve a common goal, we create an opportunity to expand that learning and see a much greater impact."

*Melissa Reeves is a media and outreach specialist for the Colorado Education Initiative.*