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## **Improve Your Tomorrow to Receive 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Inspire Giving Grant**

*-- Funds to support STEAM focused Summer School --*

**Sacramento, Calif.** – The Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation named [Improve Your Tomorrow](#) as the grant recipient for its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Inspire Giving program.

Improve Your Tomorrow, a nonprofit created to break the school to prison pipeline by helping young men of color get to and through college, will receive a \$10,000 grant, from the Metro Chamber Foundation's Inspire Giving endowment fund, as well as in-kind services to create a 4-week intensive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) focused summer school in South Sacramento.

Every year, Inspire Giving provides a \$10,000 grant to help fund a specific project for a local nonprofit. Through the Inspire Giving leadership team, donors, and partners, the grant recipient receives in-kind services, donations, and support for an entire calendar year in order to fulfill project needs. In 2021, Inspire Giving celebrates eleven years of grant making. In eleven years, Inspire Giving has supported eleven nonprofits through \$115,000 in grants and over \$1,000,000 in in-kind support and services.

As voted on by Inspire Giving donors, the 2021 Inspire Giving grant focuses on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DIEB). This year's Request For Proposals received over 40 applications, demonstrating the need for significant investment in this area. We recognize that this topic is incredibly broad, largely because challenges exist in every single industry sector. We know that achieving this goal requires attention and investment, and we want to do our part to catalyze that support.

“Sacramento is one of the most diverse cities in our nation, and as a region we will truly thrive when all of our communities have equitable access to opportunities to be successful,” said 2021 Inspire Giving Board Chair Heather Williams.

With the 2021 Inspire Giving grant, Improve Your Tomorrow will be able to create a summer school program that will ensure low-income males of color enter high school prepared to take rigorous classes and upon graduation, enter college en route to becoming valuable assets in our local workforce. Students will participate in engaging STEAM activities and learn about related careers.

“This year’s summer program is really essential” says Michael Casper, IYT COO & Co-Founder. “We’re trying to offset the tremendous learning loss that has taken place with the transition to distance learning. Our students have been disproportionately affected as many of them were not equipped with the technology, home environment or the support to smoothly pivot to this new learning method”

To close the diversity, equity, inclusion and college achievement gaps for young men of color, Improve Your Tomorrow will partner with Breakthrough Sacramento to create a 4-week intensive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) focused summer school in South Sacramento. During the program, IYT students will attend daily classes in supplementary STEAM-related topics and will participate in experiential enrichment activities. Students will also have an opportunity to visit college campuses and participate in community building activities.

"IYT is extremely excited and honored to be chosen for this year's grant. Collaborating with local community business professionals to bring real life experience and resources to our students is what we need." added IYT’s Director of Development Hasani Johnson.

Established in 2009, Inspire Giving is an endowment fund administered by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Constructed upon its motto – “Truly, a little is enough, if enough people do it.” – individuals are encouraged to contribute to the fund to collectively give a larger donation than they could give on their own. Donors for each grant year, along with Founding and Legacy members, help select the recipient through a closed voting process. For the 2021 grant, early donors will also help select the priority giving area. Inspire Giving contributions can be [accepted online](#) or by contacting the Metro Chamber Foundation.

For more information about Improve Your Tomorrow, visit <https://www.improveyourtomorrow.org/>.

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