Amgen and the Amgen Foundation advance science education by funding innovative programs at every level, from the local elementary school to the world’s top universities. It’s all part of Amgen’s commitment to dramatically improve science education.

Inspiring the Scientists of Tomorrow
About Amgen
Amgen discovers, develops, manufactures, and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science’s promise by bringing safe, effective medicines from lab to manufacturing plant to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping people around the world in the fight against serious illnesses. With a deep and broad pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people’s lives. For more information, visit www.amgen.com and follow us on www.twitter.com/amgen.

Amgen Foundation
Operating since 1991, the Amgen Foundation is an integral component of Amgen’s commitment to dramatically improve people’s lives. The Foundation is one of the most important vehicles for Amgen’s corporate philanthropy. To date, the Foundation has contributed over $200 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Europe.

The commitment to science education reflects Amgen’s core values and complements the company’s dedication to helping people in inspiring and innovative ways. Through effective philanthropy, the Foundation makes the excitement of the sciences, the promise of education, and the provision of essential health and social services more accessible to members of the community.

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Amgen Foundation Mission
The Amgen Foundation seeks to advance science education, improve quality of care and access for patients, and support resources that create sound communities where Amgen staff members live and work.
Advancing Science Education

As one of the world’s foremost biotechnology companies, Amgen is keenly aware of the value and importance of science education. Therefore, the company is committed to supporting science education programs that encourage bright young minds to explore a future in science. To date, Amgen and the Amgen Foundation have committed more than $70 million in science education funding to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Europe.

By deepening the scientific literacy of students through inquiry-based experiences, supporting science teachers, and inspiring the next generation of innovators, Amgen demonstrates a steadfast commitment to making a real difference in science education.

The Amgen Foundation supports numerous local, national, and international organizations that strive to expand opportunities for science education. For example, the Foundation partners with many organizations that cultivate and preserve students’ interest in the sciences through hands-on science experiences as well as programs that foster meaningful professional development for teachers. Additionally, the Foundation continues to support organizations dedicated to increasing the number of women and other traditionally underrepresented groups interested in pursuing careers in science.

Special targeted initiatives help ensure that the scientists of tomorrow receive the education and encouragement they need today. The Amgen Foundation works to broaden and deepen its impact by actively exploring the synergies among its science education grantees, in addition to collaborating with other funders to advance science education on local, national, and global scales. The Foundation is gaining visibility and impact through the many initiatives it supports, and its grant portfolio creates the capacity to enhance science education in meaningful ways.

Snapshot of Signature Programs

Amgen Scholars Program
• $34 million over eight years to support more than 2,400 undergraduates across the United States and Europe

Teach For America
• $7 million over nine years to support 3,300 corps members teaching math and science to more than 325,000 secondary school students in 31 states across the U.S.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
• $1.5 million over three years to strengthen high-quality instruction and student achievement through the support of National Board Certification for U.S. science teachers

Amgen Biotech Experience
• $7 million committed to date to support hundreds of science teachers to run an engaging biotech experience with over 250,000 students to date across the U.S. and U.K.
For undergraduates envisioning a career on the frontiers of biological science and engineering, the Amgen Scholars Program opens a door to the deepest kind of learning and exploration: hands-on, frontline encounters with the demanding process of creating new knowledge.
– L. Rafael Reif
President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Amgen Scholars

Launched in 2006, the Amgen Scholars Program is a $34 million, eight-year program that provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on science research at some of the world’s leading universities.

Through the program, undergraduate students from across the United States and Europe spend eight to 10 weeks immersed in research labs at the University of Cambridge, MIT, the University of California, Berkeley, and 10 other top universities. The result: a challenging – and often life-changing – experience. With the 2008 expansion into Europe, the Amgen Scholars Program provides undergraduates with the opportunity to participate in research projects and work with leading academic scientists across the United States and Europe. The program supports the participation of 325 Amgen Scholars each year in the summer research program and will impact at least 2,400 students by 2014. To date, Amgen Scholar program alumni have represented more than 440 colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 33 different countries.

The initiative is designed to advance science education by inspiring college students to pursue graduate training and, ultimately, research and scientific careers. And data on the status of alumni thus far points to a successful program. Of the program alumni who have completed their undergraduate studies to date, over 85% are currently pursuing advanced degrees and careers in science and engineering fields.

A highlight of the program is a summer symposium for the Scholars from across the U.S. and Europe respectively. Participants have the opportunity to learn firsthand from leading industry and academic scientists about biotechnology and drug discovery and development.

www.amgenscholars.com

Karla Ramos
Home School: University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
Host School: University of California, Berkeley

Karla Ramos spent 10 weeks in the Marletta Lab, run by Dr. Michael Marletta, well known for applying chemistry and biology to novel and fundamental biological questions. Ramos had her chemistry skills down pat, but it was the biology that she anticipated as a challenge. She ended the summer thrilled to recognize the close connection between the two. Dr. Marletta is now guiding her as she applies for PhD programs.

“Throughout my lab work, I was able to apply all of my chemistry knowledge to biology applications and problems. I really got to learn a new field of science.”
Of the 13 million children growing up in poverty in the United States, only about half will graduate from high school. And those who do graduate will perform on average at an eighth-grade level. A major partnership helps Teach For America (TFA) increase its number of outstanding math and science majors who commit to teaching in urban and rural public schools for two years upon graduation from college.

With more than $7 million in support since 2004, the Amgen Foundation is TFA's founding National Math and Science Partner and provides new recruits – called Amgen Fellows – with additional financial support for themselves as well as their classroom. By placing bright young professionals in low-income communities, the program supports a new generation of educators who can inspire children to explore a future in science. www.teachforamerica.org

Through a $1.5 million, three-year commitment, the Amgen Foundation united with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to improve highly-effective science teaching and learning in schools across the country. A voluntary assessment program designed to develop, recognize, and retain accomplished teachers, National Board Certification is achieved through a performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete.

By supporting more than 500 science teachers in Amgen communities who choose to obtain National Board Certification, the Foundation is showing its commitment to strengthen scientific instruction and student achievement. The grant supports the creation of three new online, research-based professional development courses to improve science instruction for teachers nationwide. www.nbpts.org

“Success begins in the classroom. Teachers who are prepared, equipped, and passionate about the possibilities of science and math offer our best hope for the next generation. Teach For America seeks to bring that sense of possibility, that passion for discovery, that spark of hope into underserved math and science classrooms.”

– Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson
President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
The Amgen Biotech Experience is the most valuable program that I have been involved with as an educator.

– Michael Murray
Science Teacher, Pembroke High School, Massachusetts

Amgen Biotech Experience

Each year, more than 50,000 students and their teachers participate in the Amgen Biotech Experience (formerly known as the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program) in their own classrooms through this Amgen Foundation-funded program. By providing an advanced biotech curricula and loaning professional grade lab equipment to schools for free, the program succeeds in opening students’ eyes to the world of biotechnology with lab experiences that lead them to the thrill of scientific discovery.

This program was introduced in 1990 by Bruce Wallace, a molecular biologist who was one of Amgen’s first staff members. It was his hope that every student would have the opportunity to experience the joy of discovery and the excitement of having science at his or her fingertips.

In a recent independent evaluation surveying more than 1,000 high school students, program participants showed significant gains in all categories relating to science: attitude, interest, confidence and knowledge, as well as interest in pursuing science as a career. Students from groups underrepresented in science students in introductory biology classes, and students who will be the first in their families to attend college showed the most significant gains.

The reach of the program has been extraordinary, with more than 250,000 students to date exposed to the fundamentals of biotechnology across multiple Amgen U.S. and U.K. communities. www.bwbiotechprogram.com

Mary Simun
Science Teacher
Redondo Union High School

Each time she rolls out the Amgen Biotech Experience for her Redondo Union High School biology students in Redondo Beach, Calif., Mary Simun sees a total transformation in their excitement about science.

“It’s phenomenal,” Simun says. “Almost everything we teach in school is a history lesson. The Amgen program is modern, current, and cutting edge. Micro pipetters, gel electrophoresis – students love it. They’re exposed to a career field they can really get interested in.”

It certainly inspired one of Simun’s more troubled students – one who, before the lab, was failing almost every subject. “The other day, she told me that she wants to be a nurse,” Simun says with great pride. “That’s an impact that you cannot measure. This program is incredibly powerful.”
The Amgen Foundation is proud to support the FIRST Robotics Program, which combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high school students discover project management, design, marketing, programming, teamwork, strategic thinking, and cooperation. FRC challenges teams and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard “kit of parts” and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions designed by a committee of engineers and other professionals. www.usfirst.org

WGBH Teachers’ Domain
With funding from the Amgen Foundation, the WGBH Educational Foundation has enhanced biotechnology education nationwide through Teachers’ Domain, an online educational service. The Teachers’ Domain biotechnology collection gives teachers and students across the nation free access to award-winning digital media and interactive visualizations designed to deepen teaching and illustrate a variety of core concepts in the field of biotechnology in middle and high schools. http://www.teachersdomain.org/special/biot/