



2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT

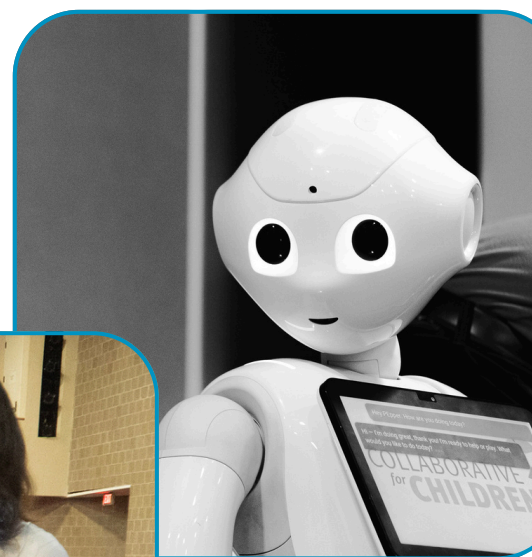
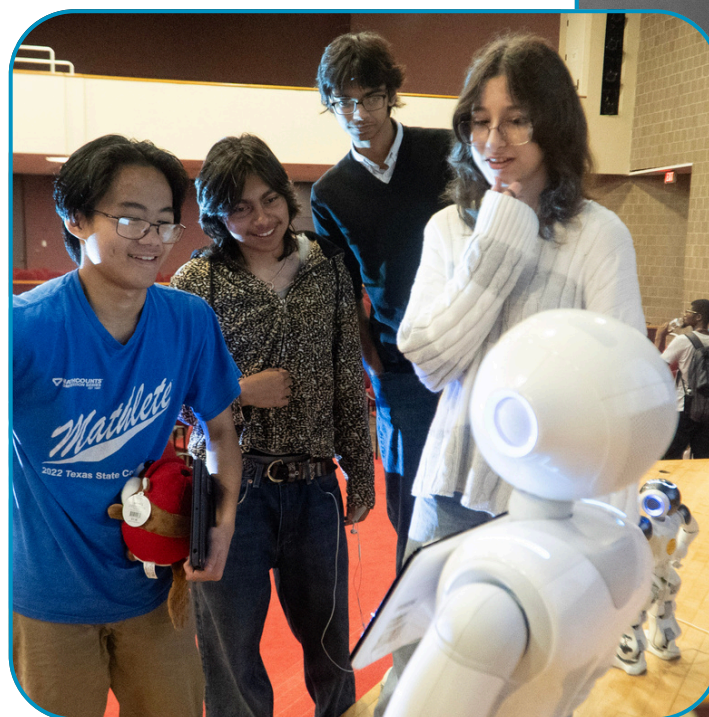
H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative

Preparing the Next Generation of AI Innovators

PREPARED BY

C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc.

PREPARED FOR





INSIDE COVER

About C-STEM

Founded in 2002, C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc. is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing students for success in communication, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (C-STEM).

C-STEM provides innovative curriculum, professional development for educators, immersive student experiences, and strategic partnerships with schools, corporations, and community organizations. These efforts equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to thrive in a technology-driven world.

For over twenty years, C-STEM has advanced STEM education by linking classroom learning to real-world challenges and emerging technologies. Its programs foster creativity, collaboration, engineering design, computational thinking, artificial intelligence, robotics, environmental sustainability, and workforce readiness, preparing students for current and future careers.

Our Mission

To inspire and prepare students to become innovative thinkers, problem-solvers, and leaders through engaging, hands-on STEM education.

Our Vision

A future where every student, regardless of background, has equitable access to transformative STEM learning experiences that unlock opportunity and strengthen communities.



By the Numbers

300,000+

Students Served

Thousands

Educators Trained

50,000+

Teacher Professional Development Hours

24

Years of Service

31+

States & Territories Served

About the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative was designed to introduce students to artificial intelligence through engaging, age-appropriate learning experiences that make complex technologies accessible, relevant, and inspiring. Through interactive demonstrations featuring Pepper and Nao humanoid robots, students explored the possibilities of artificial intelligence while developing an understanding of innovation, ethics, and future career opportunities.

This report highlights the collective impact of H-E-B's investment during the 2025–2026 program year and celebrates the students, educators, and partners who made this initiative possible.





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PARTNER MESSAGE

Preparing Students for an Intelligent Future

Dear H-E-B Partner,

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the way we live, work, communicate, and solve problems. Today's students will enter a workforce where AI is integrated into nearly every profession, from healthcare and engineering to agriculture, logistics, manufacturing, finance, education, and retail. Preparing students for that future requires more than teaching technology; it requires cultivating curiosity, creativity, ethical decision-making, collaboration, and the confidence to become innovators.

At C-STEM, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to explore emerging technologies in ways that are engaging, accessible, and inspiring. Thanks to H-E-B's visionary investment, hundreds of students across Texas experienced artificial intelligence not as an abstract concept, but as something they could see, question, interact with, and imagine themselves helping to shape.

Through the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative, students met Pepper and Nao humanoid robots, explored the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, discussed the importance of responsible AI, and discovered how innovation can be used to solve real-world challenges. More importantly, they began to envision themselves as future engineers, computer scientists, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, educators, and community leaders who will help guide the ethical use of emerging technologies.

This initiative reflects the power of collaboration among corporate partners, educators, school districts, and nonprofit organizations working together to prepare the next generation of talent. H-E-B's commitment extends beyond philanthropy; it represents an investment in Texas students, future workforce development, and stronger communities.

As you read this report, you will see more than participation numbers and survey results. You will see evidence of curiosity sparked, confidence strengthened, educators empowered, and students inspired to think differently about what is possible.

On behalf of C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc., thank you for your partnership, your leadership, and your continued commitment to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to imagine, innovate, and lead. Together, we are preparing tomorrow's workforce, one student at a time.

Yours in the Journey of Education,

Reagan Flowers, PhD 

Founder and Executive Board Treasurer
C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Investing in Tomorrow's Innovators

Artificial intelligence is reshaping every sector of the global economy. To prepare students for this changing environment, early exposure to AI concepts, ethical decision-making, computational thinking, and real-world problem-solving is essential. The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative, a partnership between H-E-B and C-STEM, provides students from diverse communities with meaningful opportunities to engage with these technologies.

In the 2025–2026 program academic year, the initiative reached more than 883 elementary, middle, and high school students across three Texas school systems through interactive AI and robotics experiences with Pepper and Nao humanoid robots. Students learned AI fundamentals, discussed responsible and ethical AI, explored STEM careers, and participated in demonstrations that made complex concepts accessible.

Participating school systems included:

- **Beatrice Mayes Institute**
- **Sheldon Independent School District**
- **Stafford Municipal School District**

The initiative connects classroom learning with workforce development by introducing students to emerging technologies in ways that foster curiosity, confidence, critical thinking, and innovation. Pepper and Nao served as interactive learning ambassadors, encouraging students to ask questions, engage in dialogue, and envision careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Evaluation findings indicate that educators considered the initiative highly effective at engaging students and advancing STEM education. Nearly four out of five educators rated the presentations highly effective at introducing AI concepts, and almost nine out of ten agreed that the experience aligned with future STEM and workforce goals. Survey responses also indicated strong student engagement and significant interest in continuing the partnership.

Educator feedback highlighted students' excitement when interacting with the robots, their thoughtful questions about future careers, and the value of connecting emerging technologies to real-world applications. These experiences show how immersive, inquiry-based STEM education can broaden students' awareness of future opportunities and build their confidence to participate in a technology-driven world.



The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative demonstrates the impact possible when corporate leadership, nonprofit innovation, and K-12 education collaborate around a shared vision. By investing in equitable access to AI education, H-E-B is helping develop a generation of ethical innovators, creative problem-solvers, and future leaders who will contribute to Texas's economic vitality and technological advancement.

Executive Impact at a Glance

883+

Students Reached

3

School Systems

19

Educators Surveyed

79%

Presentation Effectiveness (4-5 Rating)

89%

Alignment with STEM & Workforce Goals (4-5 Rating)

79%

Student Engagement (4-5 Rating)

95%

Interest in Future Partnership (4-5 Rating)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Building AI Literacy for the Next Generation

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming industries across healthcare, transportation, agriculture, retail, finance, manufacturing, and education. As AI reshapes how we live and work, preparing students for the future workforce requires more than traditional STEM instruction. Students need meaningful opportunities to understand emerging technologies, think critically about their applications, and see themselves as future innovators.

To address this need, H-E-B partnered with C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc. to launch the NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative. This immersive program introduces elementary, middle, and high school students to artificial intelligence through engaging, interactive learning experiences.

Instead of relying on lectures or videos, the initiative brought technology directly into schools with live demonstrations featuring Pepper and Nao, two interactive humanoid robots. These demonstrations made artificial intelligence tangible, inspiring curiosity, encouraging exploration, and connecting classroom learning to real-world innovation.

During the initiative, students explored both the opportunities and responsibilities of artificial intelligence. They learned how AI systems operate, discussed ethical considerations, considered future career paths, and discovered how human creativity and technology can solve meaningful problems together.





PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Four Priorities

1. Increase AI Awareness

Introduce foundational concepts in artificial intelligence through age-appropriate demonstrations and discussions.

2. Inspire Future STEM Careers

Help students connect classroom learning to future opportunities in science, engineering, computer science, robotics, healthcare, business, and emerging technology fields.

3. Promote Responsible Innovation

Foster thoughtful discussions about ethical AI, responsible technology use, bias, privacy, and the importance of human-centered design.

4. Expand Equitable Access

Offer students from diverse communities opportunities to experience advanced technologies that may not be available in their everyday learning environments.



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Learning Through Interaction

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative included:

- Interactive AI assemblies
- Pepper humanoid robot demonstrations
- Nao humanoid robot demonstrations
- AI ethics discussions
- Career exploration
- Workforce readiness conversations
- Question-and-answer sessions
- Student interaction with robotics technology
- Educator engagement
- School-community partnerships

Together, these experiences created an engaging learning environment where students could imagine themselves contributing to the future of artificial intelligence rather than simply observing it.



Students experienced artificial intelligence as an interactive learning partner rather than simply a classroom topic.



WHY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

Preparing Students for Careers That Have Yet to Be Imagined

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming every major industry. Employers now seek individuals with technical expertise, critical thinking, cross-disciplinary collaboration, problem-solving skills, and adaptability to evolving technologies.

Today's elementary students will enter careers shaped by artificial intelligence. Many future jobs do not yet exist, and current professions will demand new technical and digital literacy skills. Early exposure to artificial intelligence is now essential for workforce preparation, not merely an optional enrichment.

It is equally important to help students understand that artificial intelligence is fundamentally a human-driven technology. Individuals design algorithms, collect data, set ethical standards, evaluate outcomes, and decide how technology serves society. Students should recognize that AI is most effective when combined with creativity, empathy, ethical reasoning, and human judgment.

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative reinforced these principles by showing students that artificial intelligence is a tool to expand human potential, not replace it.





Through discussions on responsible innovation, students explored questions such as:

- How can AI improve people's lives?
- What responsibilities come with creating intelligent systems?
- How can technology be designed fairly and ethically?
- What careers will help shape the future of AI?

These conversations encouraged students to look beyond technology and consider how innovation can address real-world challenges in communities globally.

By investing in early AI education, H-E-B is cultivating a generation prepared to use and responsibly develop emerging technologies. This investment strengthens Texas' future workforce and promotes innovation, economic competitiveness, and equitable access to STEM opportunities.

"Artificial intelligence will not replace human potential, it will amplify the creativity, innovation, and problem-solving abilities of those prepared to use it responsibly."

— C-STEM Educational Philosophy





Expanding Opportunities Across Texas Schools

In the 2025–2026 program year, the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative engaged over 883 students from three Texas school systems in immersive artificial intelligence and robotics experiences. Each campus contributed its distinct educational environment, all committed to preparing students for success in a technology-driven world.

The initiative served students at multiple grade levels, introducing AI concepts in developmentally appropriate ways and consistently emphasizing exploration, inquiry, and future career awareness.

Participating Schools	
School System	Students Reached
Beatrice Mayes Institute	353+
Stafford Municipal School District	400+
Sheldon Independent School District	130+
Total Students Impacted	883+

While each district serves students with distinct needs and community contexts, the initiative used a unified educational framework to introduce artificial intelligence through interactive demonstrations, collaborative discussions, and connections to future careers.

In all three school systems, students showed enthusiasm for learning, participated actively in discussions, and engaged with Pepper and Nao through thoughtful questions. Educators consistently observed strong participation as students explored how artificial intelligence relates to their interests and future goals.

The wide geographic reach of this initiative demonstrates the value of scalable partnerships among corporations, nonprofits, and school districts. By investing in multiple communities, H-E-B expanded equitable access to technology education and supported schools in strengthening STEM learning aligned with workforce development priorities.



TEXAS PROGRAM REACH

Three School Systems. One Shared Vision.

Beatrice Mayes Institute



Stafford Municipal School District



Sheldon Independent School District



883+

Students Inspired

3

School Systems

2

Humanoid Robots

1

Shared Vision



THE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Where Curiosity Meets Innovation

The program was designed to be immersive, engaging, and highly interactive. Pepper and Nao acted as educational ambassadors, encouraging students to ask questions, join demonstrations, and consider how technology can improve lives and address real-world challenges.

Throughout each presentation, students explored:

- Artificial intelligence fundamentals
- Robotics systems
- Human-robot interaction
- Ethical decision-making
- Critical thinking
- Computational thinking
- Innovation and design
- Future STEM careers
- Problem-solving strategies

The experience went beyond robotic demonstrations. Students engaged in discussions about the impact of intelligent technologies on daily life, the responsibilities tied to innovation, and how their creativity could drive future discoveries.

Educators noted that students stayed highly engaged, showed enthusiasm, asked insightful questions, and connected classroom learning to real-world applications. Pepper and Nao sparked deeper conversations about engineering, computer science, healthcare, business, education, and other professions shaping the future of artificial intelligence.

Most importantly, the initiative helped students envision themselves in the future of technology. Through hands-on interaction with advanced robotics in an accessible environment, participants gained confidence in learning about emerging technologies and began to see themselves as future innovators, engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers, educators, and leaders.

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative showed that meaningful STEM education starts with curiosity. When students have opportunities to explore, question, create, and imagine, they become active participants in shaping the future instead of passive observers of technological change.

From Curiosity to Possibility



"Students didn't just learn about artificial intelligence, they experienced it, questioned it, and began imagining how they could help shape its future."



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Inspiring Curiosity. Building Confidence. Preparing Future Innovators.

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative aims not only to introduce students to emerging technology but also to inspire confidence, broaden opportunities, and help young learners see themselves as future contributors in a technology-driven world.

Through immersive demonstrations, interactive dialogue, and exposure to real-world artificial intelligence applications, students engaged in learning beyond traditional classroom instruction. The initiative fostered curiosity, encouraged critical thinking, and showed how innovation can address meaningful community challenges.

Evaluation results show that educators considered the initiative highly successful. Seventy-nine percent rated the presentations as highly effective in engaging students and introducing artificial intelligence concepts. Additionally, 89% agreed the experience aligned with future STEM education and workforce development goals. These findings indicate the initiative effectively connected classroom learning to broader discussions about career readiness and technological innovation.

Educators reported strong student engagement during the presentations. Students participated actively, asked thoughtful questions, and showed enthusiasm while interacting with Pepper and Nao. The robots served as instructional tools and catalysts for inquiry, helping students understand how artificial intelligence relates to daily life and future careers.





LEARNING OUTCOMES

Future-Ready Competencies

Beyond technical knowledge, the initiative helped students strengthen essential future-ready competencies, including:

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Problem-solving
- Ethical reasoning
- Curiosity
- Innovation mindset

These transferable skills are widely recognized as essential for success in any industry or career path.

Key Outcomes

Through H-E-B's investment, students:

- ✓ Explored foundational concepts in artificial intelligence.
- ✓ Connected classroom learning with real-world technology applications.
- ✓ Engaged with advanced robotics in an age-appropriate environment.
- ✓ Increased awareness of STEM careers and emerging industries.
- ✓ Examined the importance of responsible and ethical AI.
- ✓ Developed greater confidence interacting with new technologies.
- ✓ Expanded their understanding of innovation as a tool for improving communities.

The initiative's most significant outcome was a shift in students' self-perception. Instead of viewing artificial intelligence as something created by others, many began to see themselves as future engineers, computer scientists, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, and innovators who could shape the next generation of technology.

What Educators Reported

79%

Rated the presentations highly effective in engaging students.

89%

Reported strong alignment with STEM and workforce development goals.

95%

Expressed strong interest in expanding future partnership opportunities.



The Classroom Perspective

Teachers are essential in identifying genuine student engagement.

During the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative, educators consistently described the experience as inspiring, relevant, and highly engaging. Their feedback highlights the importance of integrating industry-connected STEM experiences into schools.

Instead of passively observing a presentation, teachers watched students actively question, explore, and connect emerging technologies to their own aspirations. Many noted that the interactive nature of Pepper and Nao transformed students from passive listeners into enthusiastic participants eager to understand how artificial intelligence works and how it can improve lives.

Student Inspiration

"Students were excited to see AI come to life and immediately began asking questions about careers."

Students showed genuine curiosity while exploring robotics, artificial intelligence, and related emerging technology professions. Educators noted that this experience expanded students' awareness of previously unconsidered opportunities.

Real-World Learning

"The presentation helped students understand that AI is a tool that can improve lives and solve problems."

Students began to see artificial intelligence as a practical tool with real-world applications in fields such as healthcare, education, transportation, and other industries that impact daily life.

Career Connections

"Questions geared toward careers and future opportunities really resonated with our students."



The initiative successfully linked STEM education with workforce readiness by helping students understand that today's learning experiences prepare them for tomorrow's careers.

Interactive Engagement

"Students loved interacting with the robots and stayed engaged throughout the presentation."

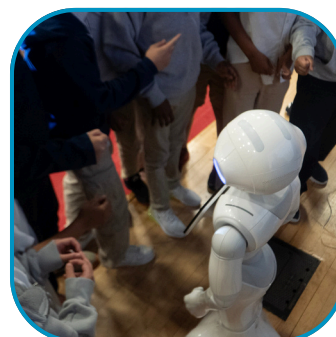
Pepper and Nao created memorable learning moments that encouraged participation, dialogue, and sustained attention throughout each presentation.

Emerging Themes

Across educator responses, five consistent themes emerged:

Curiosity

Students eagerly explored unfamiliar technologies.



Confidence

Students became more comfortable discussing AI concepts.



Engagement

Interactive demonstrations sustained high levels of participation.

Career Awareness

Students began connecting classroom learning to future professions.



Responsible Innovation

Students recognized that technology should be developed ethically and used to improve society.

These observations demonstrate that meaningful STEM education is not measured solely by knowledge acquisition but also by the confidence, curiosity, and aspirations students develop through authentic learning experiences.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Building Tomorrow's Workforce Through Partnership

Preparing students for the future requires collaboration beyond the classroom. The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative shows what can be achieved when corporate leaders, nonprofits, educators, and school districts work together to support student success.

Through this initiative, H-E-B's investment extended beyond classroom presentations. It strengthened relationships among schools, educators, community organizations, and families, and expanded access to emerging technologies that many students might not otherwise encounter.

The initiative demonstrates how strategic partnerships can drive educational innovation and address workforce development needs. By introducing students to artificial intelligence early, the program helps build a stronger pipeline of future innovators prepared to meet the changing needs of Texas' economy.

H-E-B

Corporate Investment

C-STEM

Educational Innovation

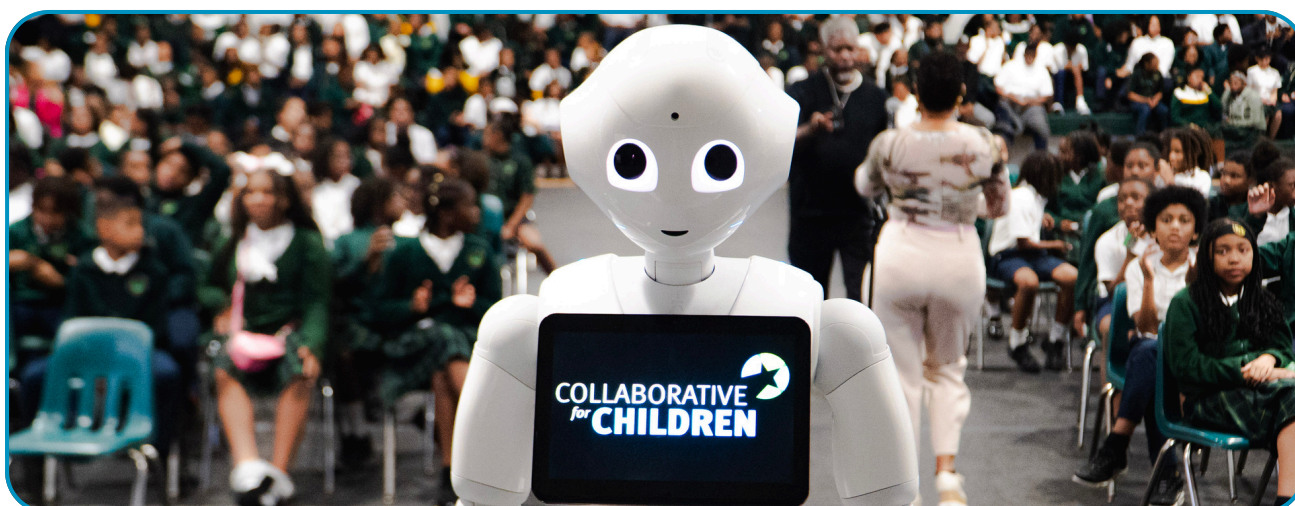
Schools

Student Engagement

Students

Future Workforce

This collaborative model creates lasting value by combining corporate investment with educational expertise to produce meaningful outcomes for students and communities alike.





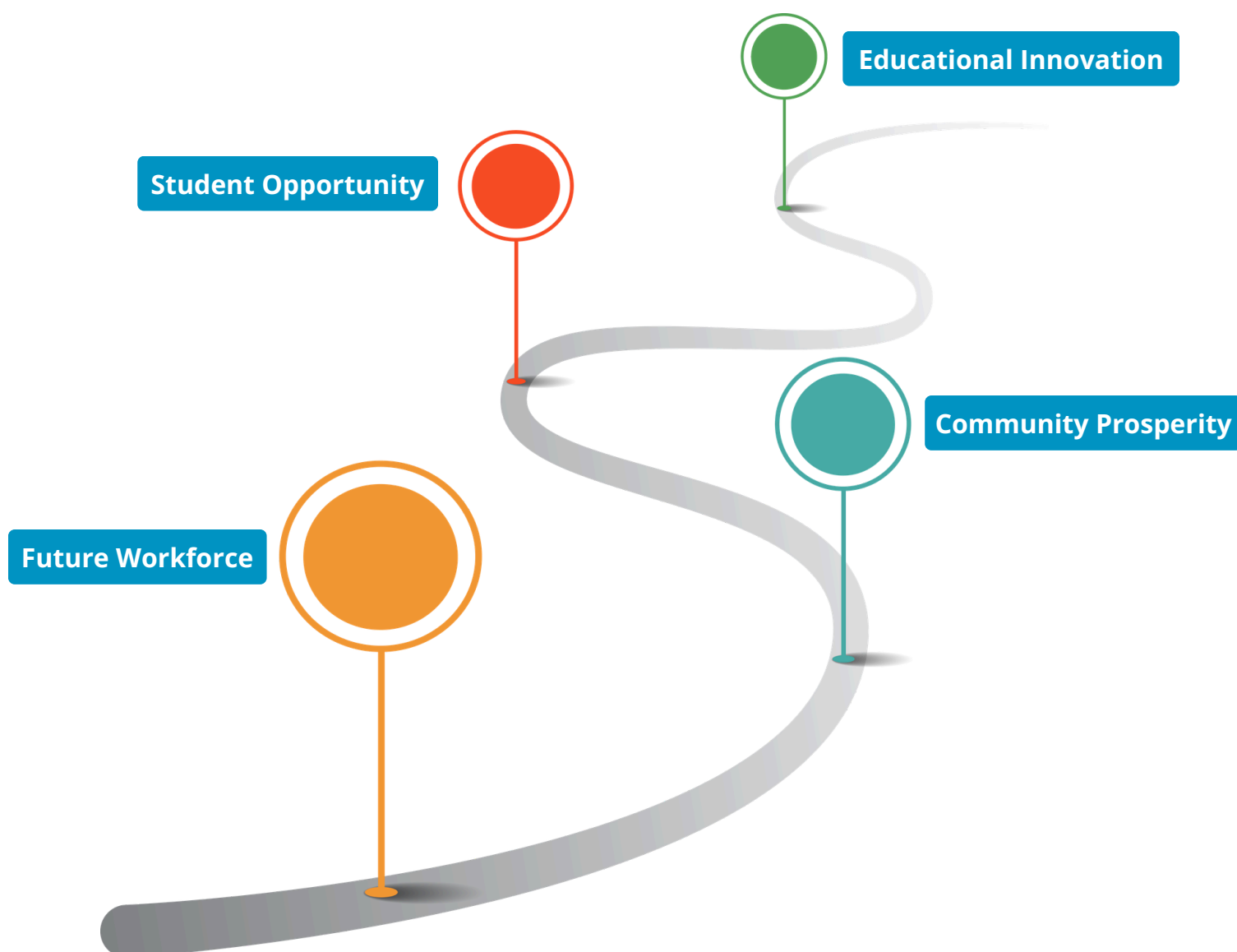
Community Outcomes

The initiative:

- Expanded equitable access to AI education.
- Increased awareness of emerging technologies.
- Connected education with workforce development.
- Strengthened educator capacity.
- Fostered collaboration among schools and community partners.
- Inspired students to pursue STEM pathways.
- Reinforced the importance of ethical innovation and responsible technology use.

As artificial intelligence continues to transform industries, initiatives like this ensure that students from all backgrounds have opportunities to participate in shaping the future rather than simply adapting to it.

Corporate Investment





PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

H-E-B: Investing in the Future of Texas

For over a century, H-E-B has strengthened the communities it serves by investing in education, health, economic opportunity, and well-being. The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative continues this commitment by preparing the next generation of innovators, leaders, and problem-solvers.

Through this initiative, H-E-B acknowledges that workforce preparation begins long before college or employment. Early exposure to artificial intelligence, robotics, and emerging technologies fosters the curiosity, confidence, and foundational knowledge students need to succeed in a digital economy.

H-E-B's investment enabled more than 883 students across three Texas school systems to engage with advanced robotics and artificial intelligence through interactive, age-appropriate activities. This partnership also underscored the role of corporate leadership in expanding access to emerging technologies for students who might not otherwise have these opportunities.

This initiative shows the value of aligning corporate social responsibility with educational innovation. Through its partnership with C-STEM, H-E-B supported programs that advanced STEM education, strengthened workforce readiness, promoted responsible technology use, and increased equitable access to quality learning opportunities.

As technology reshapes every industry, partnerships like this are increasingly important. They ensure students are prepared to use emerging technologies and are empowered to lead, innovate, and contribute to their communities.

883+

Students Reached

3

School Systems

19

Educators Surveyed

95%

Strong Interest in
Future Partnership

"Together, H-E-B and C-STEM are helping ensure that Texas students are not simply consumers of artificial intelligence—they are becoming the ethical innovators, creators, and leaders who will shape its future."



Measuring Impact Through Data-Informed Evaluation

A comprehensive evaluation framework was developed to assess the effectiveness of the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative and its impact on student engagement, educator perceptions, and future STEM programming opportunities. The evaluation collected quantitative and qualitative evidence to guide ongoing program improvement and demonstrate the value of corporate investment in STEM education.

The evaluation considered broader indicators of educational success beyond knowledge acquisition, including student engagement, instructional relevance, workforce alignment, and educator perceptions of artificial intelligence and robotics as learning tools.

Evaluation Objectives

The evaluation sought to answer five key questions:

- Did the initiative successfully engage students in learning about artificial intelligence?
- Did educators perceive the presentations as relevant to classroom instruction and future workforce preparation?
- Were students inspired to consider STEM and technology careers?
- Did the use of Pepper and Nao enhance student engagement?
- How can future AI programming be strengthened and expanded?

Most quantitative items were measured using a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree or Poor to Excellent, depending on the question.



Qualitative Analysis

Open-ended responses were reviewed using thematic analysis to identify recurring ideas and educator observations. Responses were grouped into common themes including:

- Student engagement
- Career awareness
- Interactive learning
- Robotics demonstrations
- Artificial intelligence understanding
- Future program expansion

These qualitative insights provide valuable context for interpreting the quantitative findings and illustrate how educators experienced the initiative within their own classrooms.

Interpretation Considerations

While survey findings demonstrate overwhelmingly positive perceptions, several methodological considerations should be noted:

- Participation was voluntary.
- Survey responses reflect educator perceptions rather than direct student assessments.
- The evaluation was designed to measure immediate program impact rather than long-term outcomes.
- Results should be interpreted as indicators of program effectiveness rather than causal measures of academic achievement.

Despite these limitations, the consistency of educator feedback across multiple school systems provides strong evidence that the initiative achieved its intended educational objectives and delivered meaningful learning experiences for participating students.

Evaluation at a Glance

- 19 educator surveys completed
- Quantitative + qualitative analysis
- Anonymous electronic survey
- Five-point rating scale
- Thematic coding of open-ended response

Expanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence Education

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative provided students with meaningful introductions to artificial intelligence and robotics. Building on this success, C-STEM recommends strategies to further enhance student learning, support educators, and increase community impact.

1. Expand AI Learning Beyond Assemblies

While interactive presentations sparked interest, additional classroom-based experiences will enable students to explore AI concepts more deeply through extended project-based learning. Recommendation: Create multi-session classroom modules aligned with grade-level STEM standards to reinforce concepts introduced in the presentations.

2. Establish Student AI Innovation Labs

Offer schools opportunities for students to participate in hands-on design challenges that apply AI concepts to real community problems.

Potential projects include:

- Smart cities
- Healthcare innovations
- Environmental monitoring
- Agriculture technology
- Transportation systems



3. Increase Educator Professional Development

Teachers have shown strong interest in integrating artificial intelligence into their instruction.

Recommendation:

Offer professional learning opportunities focused on:

- AI literacy
- Classroom applications
- Ethical AI instruction
- Robotics integration
- Future workforce trends

4. Expand Family STEM Engagement

Students' enthusiasm for robotics often extends beyond the classroom.

Hosting Family AI Nights will allow parents and caregivers to explore artificial intelligence with their children and strengthen home-school partnerships.

5. Create Student AI Ambassadors

Create student leadership roles that enable participants to demonstrate robotics, mentor younger students, and serve as STEM ambassadors in their schools.

6. Strengthen Career Connections

Increase collaboration with technology professionals, engineers, healthcare leaders, entrepreneurs, and AI researchers to offer students authentic career exploration opportunities.

Activities may include:

- Career panels
- Industry speakers
- Workplace tours
- Mentorship
- Virtual job shadowing



7. Develop Longitudinal Impact Evaluation

Future evaluation efforts should examine long-term outcomes such as:

- STEM course enrollment
- Student confidence
- Career interests
- Technology skills
- Postsecondary aspirations

Tracking these indicators over several years will offer valuable insights into the long-term impact of early AI education.

Looking Ahead

The success of the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative shows that early exposure to emerging technologies sparks curiosity, broadens aspirations, and builds workforce readiness. Continued investment in innovative STEM programs will help prepare today's students to become tomorrow's innovators.



Investing in Students. Strengthening Communities. Building the Future.

H-E-B's investment in STEM education delivers benefits beyond individual classrooms. Through its partnership with C-STEM, H-E-B has strengthened schools, inspired students, supported educators, and contributed to Texas's long-term economic growth. The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative demonstrates how strategic philanthropy can deliver measurable educational outcomes, advance workforce development, and expand equitable access to new technologies.

Return on Community Investment

Through H-E-B's support, the initiative successfully:

- Introduced over 883 students to artificial intelligence and robotics.
- Expanded access to emerging technologies in three school systems.
- Strengthened educator confidence.
- Increased educator confidence in teaching AI and future STEM careers.
- Promoted ethical technology development.
- Connected classroom learning with workforce readiness.
- Inspired students to see themselves as future innovators.

Why Corporate Partnerships Matter

Business investment in education strengthens the talent pipeline needed for future innovation and economic growth. Programs such as the H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative develop key competencies that employers value:

- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Digital literacy
- Ethical decision-making
- Adaptability
- Innovation

These foundational skills equip students to succeed in healthcare, engineering, manufacturing, retail, logistics, finance, energy, education, and many other fields shaped by artificial intelligence.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Celebrating a Shared Commitment to Student Success

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative reflects the combined efforts of partners, educators, school leaders, students, and community advocates who believe in the transformative power of STEM education.

C-STEM sincerely thanks H-E-B for its generous investment and strong commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students across Texas. This partnership enabled hundreds of young learners to explore artificial intelligence and robotics, inspiring curiosity, innovation, and a broader vision for the future.

We also extend our gratitude to the leadership of:

- Beatrice Mayes Institute
- Sheldon Independent School District
- Stafford Municipal School District
- Collaborative for Children

for welcoming this initiative and providing students with valuable opportunities to engage with emerging technologies.

Thank you to the educators who embraced new learning experiences, facilitated thoughtful discussions, and encouraged students to ask bold questions. Your dedication prepares the next generation of innovators.

Thank you to every student who engaged with Pepper and Nao with enthusiasm, imagination, and curiosity. Your creativity and optimism inspire us to expand STEM learning opportunities.

We also recognize the C-STEM staff, volunteers, consultants, and community partners whose expertise and commitment made this initiative possible. Together, we are building a future where every student can learn, innovate, and lead.

CONCLUSION

Preparing Students to Shape the Future

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the world. As technology redefines industries and creates new opportunities, education must evolve to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed.

The H-E-B NextGen AI & Robotics Initiative shows the impact possible when corporate leadership and educational innovation unite with a shared purpose. Through immersive experiences, students learned that artificial intelligence involves people, creativity, collaboration, and solving meaningful challenges. For many participants, this initiative introduced a new perspective on technology and their role in it. Students who once saw robotics as distant or inaccessible began to envision themselves as engineers, programmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, educators, and leaders shaping the future.

Equally important, educators gained new opportunities to connect classroom instruction with emerging technologies and workforce needs, reinforcing the vital role schools play in preparing students for evolving careers. equitable access to transformative STEM learning experiences, strengthening partnerships with schools and industry, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to develop the curiosity, confidence, and competencies needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Together with H-E-B and our educational partners, we are not only preparing students for the future but empowering them to create it.

"Today's curiosity becomes tomorrow's innovation. Together, we are preparing the next generation of ethical AI leaders, creative problem-solvers, and community changemakers."

Thank You!





APPENDICES

Program Reference

Appendix A — Participating School Systems

- Beatrice Mayes Institute (Elementary and Middle School)
- Sheldon Independent School District (Elementary School)
- Stafford Municipal School District (Two Elementary, One Middle and High School)

Appendix B — Program Highlights

- Interactive presentations featuring Pepper and Nao humanoid robots
- Artificial intelligence demonstrations
- Student question-and-answer sessions
- AI ethics discussions
- STEM career exploration
- Workforce readiness conversations
- Educator engagement activities
- Community partnership development

Appendix C — Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Measure	Result
Students Reached	883+
Educators Surveyed	19
Presentation Effectiveness (4–5 Rating)	79%
Alignment with STEM & Workforce Goals (4–5 Rating)	89%
Student Engagement (4–5 Rating)	79%
Interest in Future Partnership (4–5 Rating)	95%



Appendix D — About C-STEM

C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc. is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing STEM education through innovative curriculum, educator professional development, student engagement, and strategic partnerships. Since 2002, C-STEM has served more than 300,000 students, trained thousands of educators, and collaborated with schools, businesses, higher education institutions, and community organizations to prepare learners for success in college, careers, and civic life.

Appendix E — Contact Information

C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc.

Website: www.cstem.org

Email: info@cstem.org

3226 Alabama St., Houston, TX 77004