



SVEF Welcomes **You** Back!

As we begin the 2017-18 school year, the Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation (SVEF) would like to welcome our students, teachers and families back to school for an enriching and exciting educational year.

Some of you might be asking, “**What is the SVEF**”? We are a non-profit organization, originally established over 30 years ago to provide support for educational excellence in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD). Over the years the SVEF has supported music, art, science and technology.

For several years, the SVEF researched a **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Our middle school teachers are already pursuing **STEM** instruction, so PLTW was a great fit and has been integrated into the middle schools. STEM is an excellent introduction for students at all levels to learn about technology and engineering in a hands-on environment. This approach helps to reinforce science and mathematics while engaging students in a fun and unimimidating manner. **The School District is looking to further support both our Elementary and High Schools with the same program.** STEM is a comprehensive, resource-demanding program, requiring teacher training, licenses, computers, software, robotic kits, 3D printers and an assortment of other equipment and tools. Although the District receives grant funding from the state, a shortage still exists in their efforts to provide STEM in our schools. Consequently the SVEF has again stepped up to raise funds to help support **STEM!**

The SVEF so far has provided a total of **\$41,000** in funding and is looking to a further commit towards funding the SVUSD **STEM** endeavor, via grants and campaign letters, reaching out to major corporations and local businesses within the SVUSD.

The Cox Corporation has again already generously committed \$10,000 to the cause. We thank Cox for their continued support and wish to challenge more companies to join in supporting **STEM**. If you or someone you know works for an organization that could partner with the SVEF, please let us know. Now more than ever, investing in our children’s education is a vital tangible step in helping shape the future of our community and our society.

The SVEF wishes you a great school year and we look forward to serving you.

We invite you to visit our web site and see how **YOU** can get involved!

www.sveffoundation.org

