# The JetBlue Foundation Celebrates National STEM Day by Awarding Grants to Power STEM Initiatives in Puerto Rico

Nov 08, 2018

– JetBlue Foundation Provides $135,000 in Grants to Ciencia Puerto Rico, EcoExploratorio, Inter American University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Aviation Maintenance Institute –

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- JetBlue (NASDAQ:JBLU) today announced the JetBlue Foundation has awarded $135,000 in grants to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education programs in Puerto Rico to aid in long-term post-hurricane recovery. Grants of varying amounts were provided to organizations that are investing in the island's future and placing aviation and STEM top-of-mind as career choices for students.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20181108005811/en/




The JetBlue Foundation celebrates National STEM Day by awarding grants to power STEM initiatives in Puerto Rico (Photo: Business Wire)

Earlier this spring, the JetBlue Foundation opened a granting application cycle to qualified programs and organizations working to fuel STEM learning. The Puerto Rico-specific grants are part of 100x35JetBlue, which is JetBlue's ongoing initiative to help Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Maria through 35 ways over 100 days and beyond, with the JetBlue now focusing on the long-term phase. JetBlue currently serves three destinations in Puerto Rico including its San Juan focus city where JetBlue is the largest carrier, as well as Aguadilla and Ponce. This year, JetBlue celebrated its 16$^{th}$ anniversary of service to Puerto Rico.

Grant Recipients include:

**Ciencia Puerto Rico's** mission is to democratize science and transform education in Puerto Rico by engaging and empowering a diverse, global community of scientists, students, educators and allies. Through its "Ciencia al Servicio de Puerto Rico" (Science in Service of Puerto Rico) program, the non-profit will leverage its large and committed network of more than 9,000 STEM professionals and educators to transform the way science is taught on the island.

**EcoExploratorio** inspires people to explore, share and protect the natural environment through STEM. EcoExploratorio will develop the "In the Clouds" program to enhance Aviation Engineering and Technology, Aviation Weather Forecasting and Sustainable Development. "In the Clouds" will work with 25 girls ages 10 to 14, from economically disadvantaged and under-represented communities throughout San Juan to stimulate their interests in aviation and STEM.

**Inter American University of Puerto Rico (INTER),** a previous JetBlue Foundation grant recipient, is the second largest university system in Puerto Rico.

**INTER Aguadilla** focuses on the holistic formation of students through excellence at the undergraduate and graduate levels. At least 30 students per semester will learn the culture of science, and all academic areas will be strengthened with special attention to an interdisciplinary education and the integration of technology. The Aguadilla Campus will form the "Microbial Biodegradation of Jet Aviation Fuel" program as an opportunity to mentor the next generation of the Puerto Rican STEM workforce.

**INTER Bayamón** produces competent professionals with a high-quality academic education that is dynamic, relevant, and responsive to the latest advances in STEM, aeronautics, business administration, and the arts. The "Give Wings to Their Dreams" project will partner with the School of Aeronautics and JetBlue Foundation to support student pilots from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This program will aid in certifications and provide support toward pilot licenses.

**The Puerto Rico Aviation Maintenance Institute (PRAMI)** is the only institution in Puerto Rico that complies with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), part 147 for Aviation Maintenance Technician schools. Following Hurricane María, their library and equipment were damaged or destroyed. The Interactive Learning Space will receive special new equipment and will use special technical software to supplement traditional classroom learning. The initiative will also help PRAMI comply with the Puerto Rico Approval State Agency for accreditation and the FAA requirements.

The JetBlue Foundation's new president, Ursula Hurley, was on hand to distribute these grants at a special ceremony where she met with the organizations

that provide access to students and communities traditionally under-represented in STEM fields. The JetBlue Foundation was founded in 2013 with a mission to reach 5,000 students in five years and provide educational opportunities through grants and in-kind support to diverse programs, volunteerism and partnerships. Former JetBlue Foundation President Joanna Geraghty, who is currently president and chief operating officer at JetBlue, met this mission and recently passed the baton to Hurley. Hurley, who also serves as vice president and treasurer at JetBlue, will guide the Foundation in its next chapter of empowering future aviation professionals.

"JetBlue and the JetBlue Foundation are dedicated to helping Puerto Rico in its long-term recovery and towards an even brighter tomorrow. Our focus is on investing in the next generation of aviation professionals, and ensuring they are prepared to join the industry," said Ursula Hurley, president, JetBlue Foundation. "These grants are just one of more than 35 efforts we've taken to invest in Puerto Rico, and will fuel both the long-term success of the island and our industry."

Beyond just grants, the JetBlue Foundation provides in-kind support, mentoring, internships and much more to make a difference for the next generation of aviators, engineers, dispatchers, schedulers, aircraft mechanics and pilots and other STEM professionals. Over the past five years, the Foundation has built ongoing relationships with more than 50 aviation and STEM-focused programs and provided over $1.1 million in grants to help these programs take off and soar. For more information on the JetBlue Foundation, visit jetbluefoundation.org.

**About JetBlue in Puerto Rico –** JetBlue launched service to San Juan in 2002, and later expanded service into Ponce and Aguadilla. Today, JetBlue is Puerto Rico's largest airline and the island is home to nearly 500 JetBlue crewmembers who support the airline's operations in its focus city of San Juan, as well as in Aguadilla and Ponce. JetBlue's mission of inspiring humanity, and its crewmembers in Puerto Rico have enthusiastically supported the local community over the past 16 years, including through the 100x35JetBlue hurricane relief and recovery initiative. A nod to the island's 100x35 mile dimensions, 100x35JetBlue outlined 100 days and 35 ways – and beyond – of caring for Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

**About JetBlue**

JetBlue is New York's Hometown Airline®, and a leading carrier in Boston, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, Los Angeles (Long Beach), Orlando, and San Juan. JetBlue carries more than 40 million customers a year to 100+ cities in the U.S., Caribbean, and Latin America with an average of 1,000 daily flights. For more information please visit jetblue.com.

**About the JetBlue Foundation**

The JetBlue Foundation, founded in 2013, is independent from JetBlue and has a separate Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee both made up of JetBlue crewmembers from across the airline. To learn more about the JetBlue Foundation, visit jetbluefoundation.org.

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20181108005811/en/

**Media**
JetBlue Corporate Communications
Tel: +1 718 709 3089
corpcomm@jetblue.com

Source: JetBlue

Powered by SITECORE