EDUCATION COMMITTEE 15 MONTH REPORT:

In fall of 2023, the Education Committee through Ken Ross, pursued an opportunity to further the relationship between CSUN and Northridge Academy High School with the emphasis on a STEAM program. That was a year when Carl Peterson, Judy Diamond, Chris Meredith and Betsy Manchester were involved in the Education Committee with Barbara Nitkin serving as an Alternate. Carl left in summer of 2025 for Washington State.**STEAM with robotics as the primary focus was chosen by the two Co-chairs (Judy Diamond and Barbara Nitkin).**

Many people do not know that the west San Fernando Valley was a seed bed for the computer industry before Silicon Valley took the West Coast lead. It benefited from Stanford and Berkeley. The Valley had students from various junior colleges, CSULA, Caltech and CSUN and UCLA. A number of inventors were engineers at General Dynamics, Northrup, Bendix, Magnavox, Hughes, Rockwell and Teledyne. Companies that followed were Tandon, Computer Memories, Data Products, Pertec, Micropolis, Kavlico, Electronic Memories & Magnetics (now a semiconductor company in Arizona), Sierracin) and many machine shops, and repair depots, and parts suppliers. Most industry was in Woodland Hills and Chatsworth. Northridge had a few cabling and connector companies as well as adhesive (3M which recently left the valley), the Delorean company, and a premier sound system company, James B. Lansing aka JBL. Water filtration technology companies were housed in Woodland Hills. Aerospace in Canoga Park.

The NENC Education Committee is investing in future engineers who can strengthen the Valley's economy, including aerospace communities in Santa Clarita and the Antelope Valley. Our schools are rebuilding their strong reputation, while College of the Canyons has expanded its engineering focus through a new CSU Bachelors program emphasizing architecture and CAD/CAM. At NAHS, Principal Lee has developed partnerships with local community colleges, and strengthening the relationship with its neighbor, CSUN on many platforms.

NAHS started its STEM/robotics club, and by Summer, an Honors Physics class through Mr. David Arias, the head of the Science Department(10 yr. veteran at NAHS). The new NAHS Principal, Roberto Lee had established a college credit opportunity with Pierce Junior College. Now NAHS has A freshman Physics class as well as Honors Physics. The interest in physics because of robotics has permeated Holmes Middle School, as well as Dearborn Elementary, Andasol, and Balboa Middle School.

In May of 2026, NAHS approached NENC for a $5,000 grant to facilitate the purchase of equipment to be utilized in the Summer Honors Physics class (that commenced that runs through December 2026). Physics and STEM Club projects are expensive. The methodology for teaching Engineering concepts is enhanced by physical examples and experiments that reflect the concept being taught. The students learn the concept behind design, which meshes with the **CAD/CAM concept** of the computer aided design/computer aided manufacturing behind

CSUN's Andrew J. Anagnost College of Engineering and Computer Science. They are learning software programing additionally.

Holmes Middle School also submitted a request for parts for its Eaglebotz Robotic Program under Edwin Nolasco, CTE Architecture & Engineering Teacher. He commented on the enthusiasm from graduates of the Dearborn Elementary and Gledhill Elementary Robotics programs. The enthusiasm coupled with the software, architecture, and engineering acumen of Nolasco, positions Holmes to further the technology acumen that we hope transfers to NAHS, and ultimately CSUN's Engineering program, all in our council area.

Dearborn 's Grant Application is focused on their robotics club, and lists supplies needed for the students to design and manufacture the part for their robots using their 3D printer. 3D printers are a relatively inexpensive tool for implementing concepts in computer aided design and manufacturing. The grant application submitted by Dearborn originally dated to fiscal 2025-2026, but was addressed recently due to leadership and procedural challenges.

The committee remains committed to students despite leadership and procedural challenges. Of the $12,000 budgeted for 2025–2027(2 fiscal years), approximately $10,500 has supported NAHS(approx.$5,000), Holmes($4,000), and Dearborn ($1,500).

All NENC schools offer STEAM/STEM programs, with CSUN providing inspiration and support. Principals have also advanced school safety through 15-mph signs, speed humps, and parent driver education. These partnerships position the committee for continued success next year.

2026-2027 GOALS

- **Expand CSUN engagement:** Coordinate with school principals and CSUN's engineering school to increase student tours from approximately 30 to at least 90 next year.
- **Improve access to athletic facilities:** Explore using CSUN's new soccer facility for NAHS students and younger non-club players.
- **Strengthen robotics programs:** Support robotics clubs at Balboa Magnet, Andasol, Darby, Dearborn, and Holmes.
- **Advance arts education:** Help schools obtain improved sound equipment for music and theater productions.
- **Support families and students:** Continue partnerships with the Child and Family Guidance Center and Northridge United Methodist Church for foster children transitioning to CSUN.
- **Increase school outreach:** Assign committee representatives to attend major school events and tour campuses.