

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Venice High School

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AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

DR. ADAINA BROWN
Instructional Area Superintendent

GABRIEL GRIEGO
Principal

October 30, 2020

Dear Committee on Excellence in Education:

Thank you so much for your continued support of Venice High teachers to help support student learning and classroom achievement! Myself, Brent Rojo, and Stanley Johnson have teamed together to write this grant to obtain materials in support of enriching STEMM's engineering project classes with a class set of [Micro:bit microcontrollers](#). We are asking for your help to help create an authentic electrical engineering unit for our engineering elective classes.

Over the last few years, through a series of equipment donations and small grants, we have been able to piece together enough electrical engineering equipment resources for some students to code and build. What we could scrape together was either intended for younger students or for students with prior knowledge and familiarity with the equipment. With Micro:bits, we finally feel that we have found the sweet spot in terms of cost, appropriate learning curve, and ability to accommodate some of the equipment we currently have.



Micro:bit kits have a per unit cost of about \$20, so the cost of a class set and combined with obtaining sensors, wiring, such as alligator clips, and replacing consumables like resistors, motors, and LEDs comes to be about \$900. We feel that incorporating Micro:bits will allow students to apply their coding skills and knowledge of basic parallel and series circuits to be creative and design contraptions to solve problems and complete tasks. As the Venice High MESA advisor, it has been a pleasure to see our MESA students try to solve one of the United Nations Sustainability goals using these same controllers. Wouldn't it be great to get even more students the same opportunity?

As you may be aware, STEMM was created with no funding given to us by LAUSD. We have been fortunate in recent years to get CTE funding for the Engineering pathway but the items that are eligible for funding are limited, and do not include small ticket items and consumables that are expected to be funded by the school. A grant from you would help us enrich our engineering classes. Thank you for considering our request!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Rojo".

Brent Rojo, M.Ed.
STEMM Lead and Engineering Teacher
Venice High School STEMM Magnet
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley Johnson".

Stanley Johnson
Math and Engineering Teacher
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