

SIM Houston – STEM Initiative Funding Guidelines

SIM is an association of senior IT executives, prominent academicians, selected consultants, and other IT thought leaders built on the foundation of local chapters. They come together to share and enhance their rich intellectual capital for the benefit of its members and their organizations. SIM's vision is to be recognized as the community preferred by IT leaders for delivering vital knowledge that creates business value and enables personal development.

SIM Houston supports initiatives in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this support is to address the challenges of tomorrow's technology-driven economy by funding STEM education through college scholarships as well as programs in K-12 schools and community based non-profit organizations. Our goal is to have many recipients directly benefit from these funds as opposed to giving a large allocation of funds to a few.

SIM Chapter activities and support:

- SIM Scholarships for IT/IS majors in college (primarily)
- Advisory Boards/Advisory Councils (high schools – colleges)
- Tech Camps (high schools/middle schools)
- Internships, Projects, Speakers, Career Shadowing
- STEM Competitions (high schools/middle schools)
- STEM Learning Programs (high schools/middle schools/non-profit organizations)

SIM Houston STEM Scholarship Program

SIM Houston has established a scholarship program to assist college undergraduates who plan to continue their education in an accredited four-year college or university in the Houston area. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability or national origin.

Eligibility requirements

Current student entering their junior or senior year enrolled in full time undergraduate Technology or Computer Science study at an accredited four year college or university in the Houston area.

Have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent), both cumulative and for major area of study.

Reside in one of the following Texas counties – Harris, Ft. Bend, Waller, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers, Brazoria, or Galveston.

(Additional eligibility criteria may be applicable depending on specific institutional or organizational application requirements).

Funds are block allocated directly to an institution, association, or participating organization. Scholarship recipients are selected and awarded by the institution, association, or organization with the approval of SIM Houston. Individual scholarship payments are made to each recipient on behalf of SIM Houston through the granting institution, association, organization, or directly from SIM Houston. Funds allocated are only for the direct support of the need of the student in the pursuit of their education (i.e., tuition, books, lab fees, computers or other school-related supplies, commuting expenses, room and board). Granting institutions, associations, and organizations must document their intent of distribution of the funds within the stated program guidelines. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate that these guidelines will be followed through a sign letter of acceptance.

Recipients have no legal obligation to SIM Houston. However, SIM Houston would ask that scholarship recipients attend a pre-determined SIM Houston meeting where the awards can be formally presented in person as part of a regular chapter meeting.

SIM Houston reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

To be considered for a grant to fund scholarships please submit the application for funding which can be obtained by contacting the SIM Houston Outreach Committee: outreach@simhouston.org

SIM Houston STEM Grant Program

SIM Houston has established a process to provide grants for STEM programs in K-12 schools and community based non-profit organizations. The basic criteria for receiving a STEM grant include:

- Theme: Programs must promote STEM educational activities.
- Need: Demonstrated need due to limited resources / limited alternatives.
- Touch: Programs must reach out to a minimum of 50 of students.
- Results: Effects/Result of programs must be measurable and/or reported back to SIM Houston.

K-12 Schools or non-profit community organizations may be selected by SIM Houston (through member nomination) or may submit a request for funding to the SIM Houston Outreach Committee. **In each case, the grant approval process requires a proposal brief submission to SIM Houston to assess a match of criteria to the SIM Houston STEM Grant Program.**

Proposals should include:

- A. Program Title
- B. Program Duration
- C. Organization and Program Lead
- D. Description of program including:
 - Program description and objective statement
 - Program relevance to STEM
 - Plans for student involvement and description of activities and/or learning approach
 - Expected results and products
- E. Budget amount and justification narrative

Each program lead will provide a progress report with a description of educational results and possible plans for integration of STEM learning into future courses or activities. Reports from students on the impact of their STEM educational experience, although not required, are greatly appreciated.

The money is not to be used to support any operational expenses or fund events.

To be considered for a grant to fund programs please submit the application for funding which can be obtained by contacting the SIM Houston Outreach Committee: outreach@simhouston.org