



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bloomsburg Children's Museum Receives \$40,000 Grant from Arconic Foundation to Expand Manufacturing-Focused STEM Programs for Rural Youth

Funding will increase access to hands-on camps, a combat-robotics club, maker-space resources, and community STEM events serving Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties.

BLOOMSBURG, Pa., May 14, 2025 — The Bloomsburg Children's Museum (BCM) announced today that it has been awarded a **\$40,000 grant from the Arconic Foundation**, with local support from Kawneer Bloomsburg, to expand the Museum's manufacturing and engineering education programs for students ages 10–17 across Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties.

The one-year award will:

- **Subsidize or waive tuition** for more than 350 middle- and high-school students to attend BCM's popular manufacturing summer camps and engineering design camps.
- **Grow the Combat Robot Club**, enabling teens to design, fabricate, and compete with tethered robots while learning CAD, machining, and electronics.
- **Upgrade and enlarge** the Museum's community maker space, adding fabrication equipment and dedicated storage for its mobile outreach trailers.
- **Support signature STEM events**—including Battle in the Burg, BloomCON Hak4Kidz, Bloomsburg Maker Fest, and the annual Science Fair—that connect youth with local manufacturers and STEM professionals.
- **Fund instructor stipends**, ensuring students receive mentorship from experienced engineers, educators, and industry volunteers.

"This investment from Arconic Foundation couldn't come at a better time," said **Dr. Ginny Weibel, Executive Director of the Bloomsburg Children's Museum**. "Rural students are hungry for real-world experiences that show them a future in advanced manufacturing. The grant allows us to remove cost barriers and bring even more young innovators into the pipeline."

Kawneer Bloomsburg Plant Manager Bruce Schlichter added, 'We believe that investing in STEM education and workforce development is essential to building a brighter future. We are proud to support the Children's Museum in expanding its innovative programs that inspire curiosity, creativity, and career readiness in young learners. Together, we're helping to empower the next generation of problem-solvers, decision makers, and leaders.'

Advancing STEM Education and Workforce Development

The Arconic Foundation focuses on creating skill-building experiences in STEM and manufacturing, environmental sustainability, and meeting essential human needs. By targeting rural Appalachia—an area with limited access to cutting-edge STEM opportunities—the grant directly aligns with the Foundation's mission to provide equitable educational pathways and measurable community impact.

About the Bloomsburg Children's Museum

Founded in 1985, the Bloomsburg Children's Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring curiosity, creativity, and a love of lifelong learning through interactive exhibits and programs. Each year the Museum serves more than 40,000 children and caregivers onsite, plus another 10,000 through its mobile outreach across 14 Pennsylvania counties. Learn more at www.the-childrens-museum.org.

About Arconic Foundation

Arconic Foundation partners with nonprofit organizations around the world to advance STEM education, workforce development, and environmental sustainability in communities where Arconic Corporation operates. For more information, visit www.arconicfoundation.com.