In response to the increasing importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to the economies of Latin America, in early 2016 PADF launched the *STEM in the Americas* program. This long-term initiative will support STEM education throughout the Western Hemisphere through partnerships with multinational businesses, corporate foundations, and other philanthropic organizations in which PADF will take a lead role in identifying possible investment opportunities for CSR partners. The *STEM in the Americas* program is currently active in the following countries, and PADF remains open to identifying areas for possible expansion and/or new funding in these and other countries in the region.

**Argentina**

In Argentina, PADF is supporting *Fundación Leer*, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing literacy in Argentina, to implement the *Leyendo las Ciencias*, or Reading the Sciences, project. Through teacher trainings, book donations, a science fair, and other activities, the project aims to develop science literacy, including logical reasoning abilities and familiarity with the scientific method, among 5th and 6th graders in Pilar, Buenos Aires province.

**Brazil**

In Brazil, PADF is supporting the *Sociedade de Pesquisa em Vida Selvagem e Educaçao Ambiental (SPVS)*, a leading Brazilian environmental conservation organization, in the *STEM Education through Nature* project. The project will help students in the greater Curitiba area learn the science behind biodiversity, deforestation, erosion, and climate change by developing a science curriculum based around the environment. The curriculum will include classroom lessons and hands-on activities and will be piloted in local schools.

**Chile**

In Chile, PADF is supporting *Fundación Ciencia Joven* to improve STEM education in the Valparaiso region by establishing afterschool STEM Academies at approximately 20 area schools for a total of 350 students. *Fundación Ciencia Joven* staff will provide STEM training and mentorships to area teachers who will lead their students through nine months of weekly classes, culminating in a Science and Exhibition Fair where students from each Academy will showcase hands-on projects they have tackled throughout the school year.
Colombia
In Colombia, PADF has worked for several years with the Corporación Matamoros to train wounded veterans and their families in skills needed for the workplace. Recently, the organization has incorporated math and financial literacy training for employees and trainees at a local factory in the Bogotá area. At the same time, PADF’s Colombia office has developed a proposed project to stimulate STEM education in the city of Quibdó by training teachers in technological tools for teaching innovation and the scientific methods, supporting students’ technological projects, and hosting an innovation and technology fair.

Mexico
In Mexico, PADF is promoting greater student engagement in science, technology, engineering, and math, particularly among girls and indigenous communities that are disproportionately underrepresented in this field. A STEM Bootcamp for 60 teachers allows for participants to learn new and innovative methodologies for teaching STEM. These improved teaching methodologies are being combined with hands-on projects such as science fairs, as well as in situ visits from professionals that use STEM in their careers, and/or educational field trips that allow students to see how STEM fields are relevant for their lives. This initiative is operating in the cities of Atlacomulco (Estado de México) and Tijuana (Baja California).

Partners
The STEM in the Americas program is currently made possible through the generous support of the Boeing Company, which is committed to helping children and youth achieve their potential through educational enrichment, as well as the Dart Foundation, which advances and encourages youth education, primarily in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

About PADF
The Pan American Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings together many stakeholders to improve livelihoods, empower communities, strengthen civil society, support human rights, protect the environment and respond to natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Established by the Organization of American States in 1962, PADF has worked in every country in the region. In the last decade, PADF has reached more than 92 million people, investing more than $600 million in development resources throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

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