

MEDIA RELEASE**NBA Foundation launches new partnership to advance STEM equity**

Toronto, ON - (November 28, 2023) - Visions of Science is proud to be among the organizations selected as part of the NBA Foundation's eighth round of grantees across Canada and the United States. As part of their focus, the NBA Foundation supports nonprofit organizations to further economic power in the Black community. For Visions of Science, this investment will support the STEM Empower, Launch, and Connect Initiatives, specifically supporting Black youth ages 14-24 across the Greater Toronto Area with community-based STEM education and engagement opportunities.

We're excited for Visions of Science to join our latest grantee cohort as a part of our tenth grant round," said NBA Foundation Executive Director Greg Taylor. "The NBA Foundation's investment in their work will serve to uplift and introduce STEM core competencies and opportunities to diverse youth throughout Toronto."

With this support from the NBA Foundation, Visions of Science will provide equitable access for Black youth from low-income communities who face multiple barriers to accessing consistent STEM education. These barriers include educational streaming, financial barriers, lack of career exposure, and a lack of professional networks. The STEM Empower to Connect Initiative seeks to address these barriers by providing school-to-career employment, STEM-based experiential learning, leadership, and paid job opportunities to advance Black youth towards a future in STEM.

"The future of STEM should include all voices and perspectives and reflect the diversity of all communities," said Eugenia Duodu Addy, CEO at Visions of Science. "Funds from the NBA Foundation will provide Black youth with the opportunity to develop their skills, receive representative mentorship and a ladder of opportunities, and empower them to contribute their lived experiences through a career in STEM and ultimately to transform the world around them."

Visions of Science exists to transform communities, society and the planet through equitable access to STEM. We focus our efforts on youth and communities who experience significant barriers to engagement, specifically youth from low-income and racialized communities. Since 2004, Visions of Science has engaged over 16,000 youth and reaches an average of 1000 youth annually. Visit vosnl.org to learn more.

The NBA Foundation is a non-profit organization established and initially funded by all 30 NBA teams. The Foundation is focused on driving economic opportunity and empowerment in the Black community. Visit nbafoundation.nba.com/ to learn more.

-30-

Organization Contact for Media Inquiries:

Tammy Ebuem, Senior Director of Development
Visions of Science
(416) 366-4774
tammy.ebuem@vosnl.org