

Our Partners

Baxter International Foundation

Innovation is the foundation of everything we do. We are advancing tomorrow's health-care breakthroughs and delivery. We take a hands-on approach to develop the next generation of scientists, engineers and health care professionals by supporting teachers and STEM education, serving as mentors in our communities, and creating diverse learning opportunities in the sciences.



Office of Community Education Partnerships (OCEP)

OCEP's mission is to promote, build capacity for, and engage in actionable scholarship and partnerships that improve learning and well-being in our home communities of Evanston and Chicago, and beyond. Situated within the School of Education and Social Policy (SESP) at Northwestern University, OCEP's mission stands on three pillars: scholarship, infrastructure and capacity building, and community partnerships. OCEP works to bridge the research, practice, and service missions of SESP and Northwestern University to create initiatives and partnerships that positively impact our home communities of Evanston and Chicago, but that can be shared and scaled far beyond.



Lindblom Math & Science Academy

Lindblom is one of nine selective enrollment high schools in the Chicago Public Schools system, District 299. Lindblom is located in West Englewood on Chicago's South Side and draws the best students from all areas of the city. Their student body is approximately 97% minority and approximately 80% low-income. Lindblom offers a demanding college preparatory curriculum where all core courses are honors and Advanced Placement. Through a dynamic curriculum, incorporating unique math and science opportunities, their mission is to empower students to become independent thinkers in a collaborative learning environment. They will nurture each student's contributions to local and global communities by promoting personal responsibility, service, and intellectual and social growth.



Round Lake Area High School

Round Lake is a public four-year high school serving the community of Round Lake, a northern suburb of Chicago. The student body is approximately 84% minority and 61% low-income with a total population of around 2,100 students. Round Lake stands out as a leader within the Chicago-land area for its innovative approaches to instruction, such as the school-wide implementation of competency-based learning, integration of independent and collaborative work spaces, and flexible scheduling allowing upper-level students to also enroll in college level courses.



Executive Summary



The Baxter Center for Science Education is a collaborative school-corporate-university partnership between Lindblom Math & Science Academy in the Chicago Public Schools, Round Lake High School, the Baxter International Foundation, and the Office of Community Education Partnerships (OCEP) at Northwestern University. The Baxter Center started as a collaboration between Baxter staff interested in community engagement and a high school teacher and principal with an idea. It has become a well recognized Center that can serve as a model for how to build and grow a lasting, sustainable partnership with a big impact for a relatively small investment.

In this case study, we share promising practices for building effective and sustainable STEM partnerships between K-12, industry, and university partners, grounded in the story of the Baxter Center. We tell the story of our Center's origins and how it evolved over time, calling out the lessons we learned along the way. These lessons have been synthesized into a framework, shared at the end, that we believe can help others build and sustain partnerships that are unique to the needs of their communities. We share some of the successes that have come out of our work, illustrating how much can be achieved when a coalition of partners comes together to solve common problems. We also provide examples of the impact that these efforts have had in both our respective institutions and in our shared communities.

Others have looked to The Baxter Center as a model that can help diverse institutions come together to effectively address challenges in education. The toolkit we share here is our effort to assist those who wish to follow a similar route to partnership. We include a discussion of what we mean by partnership and why we feel it is the best way to solve seemingly impossible challenges. Our framework, developed from both our experiences and research into sustainable partnership practices, is paired with quick guides for initial conversations, common pitfalls, and how to know when you are succeeding. We hope that you find these useful in your future endeavors.



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“We have great partners in the community that are committed to STEM, and we...work together with community members to really understand **what the needs are locally** and really define our STEM giving based on community needs.” - Veronica Arroyave, *Executive Director, Baxter International Foundation*

The Baxter Center for Science Education: A Model for Effective and Sustainable Corporate-School-University Partnership



"The Baxter Center for Science Education has a unique partnership. It's not usual that you can bring together a Research 1 institution like Northwestern University, where we spend a lot of time in our School of Education and Social Policy studying how to make teaching and learning better, with a company like Baxter that focuses on bringing the best of biotechnology and science to the health field, and school districts the size of Chicago Public Schools, the third largest school district in the country, and our schools in the suburbs around Round Lake High School together." - Amy Pratt, *Assistant Dean for Community Education Partnerships, School of Education & Social Policy, Northwestern University*

In this case study, we share a concrete example of a successful corporate-school-university partnership — the Baxter Center for Science Education. We begin with an overview of the Center's work then discuss how the partnership came to be and how it evolved over time.



The Baxter Center: Always Evolving

The Baxter Center for Science Education aims to foster tomorrow's innovations by developing the next generation of scientists and engineers. Across the Chicagoland area, the Center currently works at three levels to achieve its vision and mission (see sidebar) - schools and districts, educators, and students.

The Baxter Center's Vision:

To foster tomorrow's innovations by developing the next generation of scientist and engineers.

The Baxter Center's Mission:

To work with partners from the K-12 community, academia, and industry, led by Baxter International Inc., to develop programs that promote equity in science education and student success in STEM careers by bringing authentic and engaging science experiences to all students in diverse learning environments.