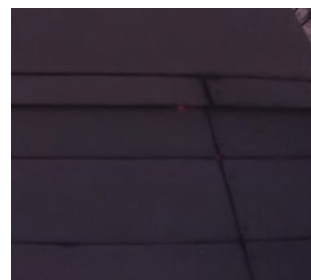
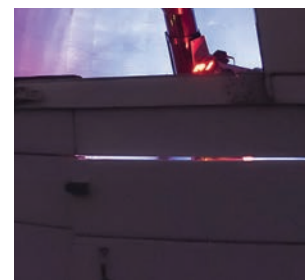
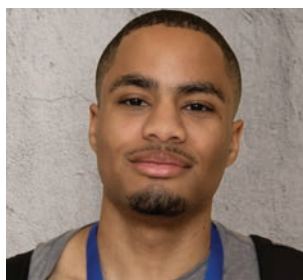
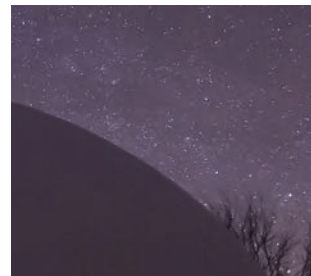
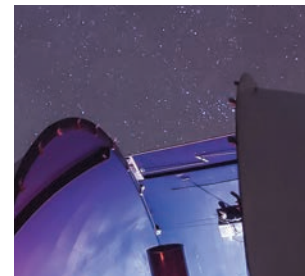
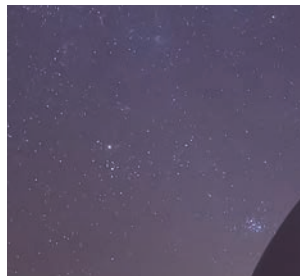
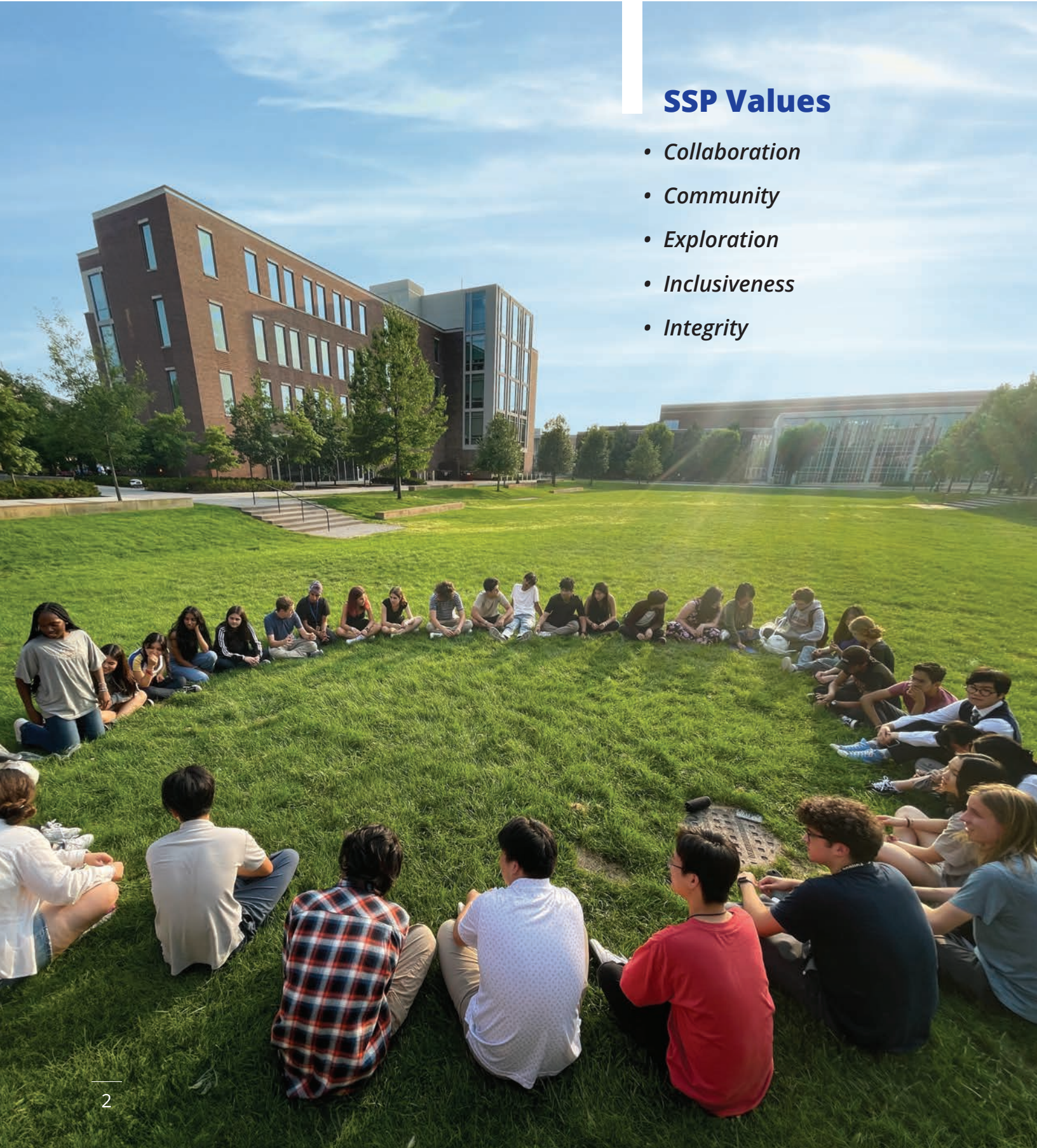


# 2023 Annual Report



SSP International, Inc.





## SSP Values

- *Collaboration*
- *Community*
- *Exploration*
- *Inclusiveness*
- *Integrity*



## Letter from the CEO & Board Chair



**Frank Steslow**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Michael McKay**  
*Board Chair*

**S**SP International has experienced a transformative year thanks to a once-in-a-lifetime bequest, incredible leadership by our dedicated team and the support of individuals like you. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and excitement. Our collective achievements this year serve as a testament to the dedication of our community, and we are profoundly grateful for the invaluable contributions of our staff and faculty, esteemed partners, and generous alumni and supporters.

This past year, we proudly served our largest-ever Summer Science Program cohort—204 participants worked, lived, and learned together across six programs hosted at five university campuses. The impact of these programs reverberates far beyond the confines of our campuses, shaping the future of STEM and inspiring young minds to reach further than ever before.

Fall 2023 we received a transformative bequest from an alumna that set in motion a strategic planning initiative by the board to shape the future of our organization. With your continued support, we are confident that SSP will expand its reach, elevate its impact, and inspire generations to come.

As we turn our gaze to the future with excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead, we invite you to take a moment to reflect on all that we accomplished together in the last year. It's truly extraordinary.



Participants in Genomics use a chemostat to stimulate evolution of antibiotic resistance, then analyze the mutated genome.



## Six Programs on Five Campuses Transforming Lives

The 2023 Summer Science Program concluded successfully in July despite facing challenges such as tornado warnings, long walking distances between labs, and a malfunctioning telescope. Six programs, spread across five campuses in four states, provided an enriching STEM experience for participants, who not only persevered but thrived during their own “experience of a lifetime.”

The Biochemistry program returned to Indiana University for a second year, accompanied by the second year of Genomics. New Mexico State hosted its inaugural SSP Astrophysics program, while other Astrophysics programs took place at the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Additionally, our second Biochemistry program found a home again at Purdue University.

As testament to the program’s growing reputation, SSP received over 2,600 applications—a record high! The admission process resulted in an overall enrollment of 204 participants. As the summer concluded, SSP celebrated our new alumni and welcomed several new faculty members to the SSP family.

To access the full reports for each program, visit [ssp.org](https://ssp.org) or scan the QR code below.



Such creativity! Participants in the Summer Science Program proudly display the bracelets they crafted during their free time.



“



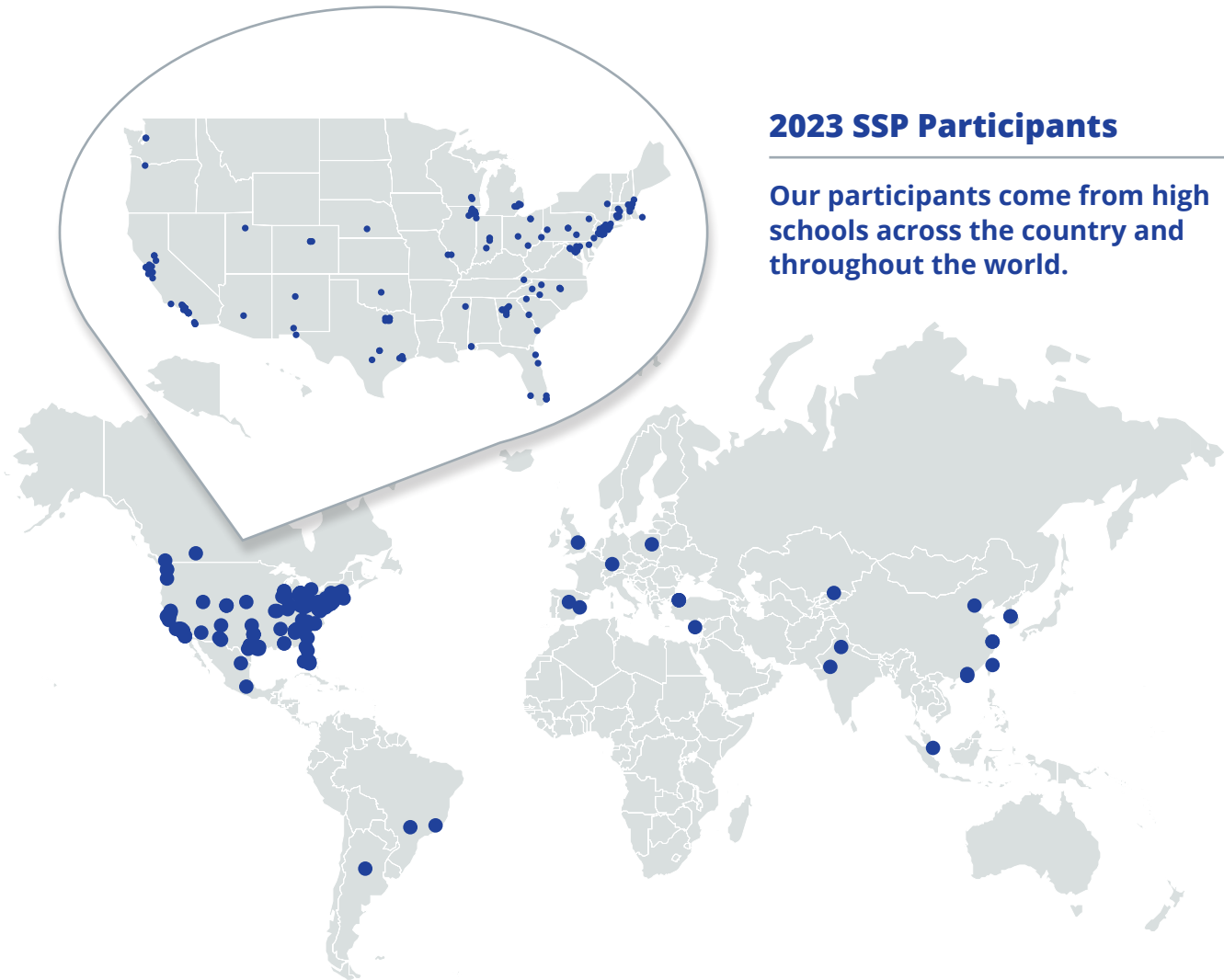
**Aaron Y., '23**

*One of the most jaw-dropping, spectacular, fantastic, eye-opening opportunities I have ever experienced. The ability to collaborate with students from all over the world not only enriches the educational experience but creates lifelong friendships and insight on the cultures and perspectives of others. SSP has changed my life trajectory and pushed me into a future I look forward to witnessing.*

”

SSP biochemistry participants construct an assay for their purified protein. Working in teams of three, participants have the opportunity to immerse themselves in authentic scientific research.

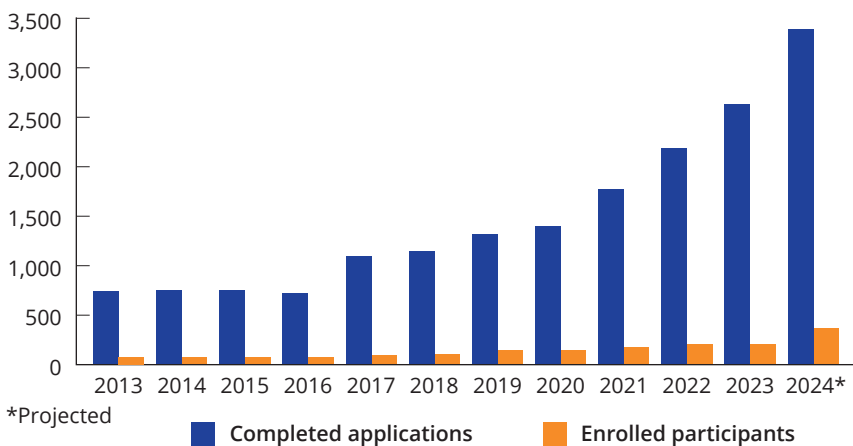
# SSP Programs (cont.)



## 2023 SSP Participants

Our participants come from high schools across the country and throughout the world.

## Applications and Enrollment



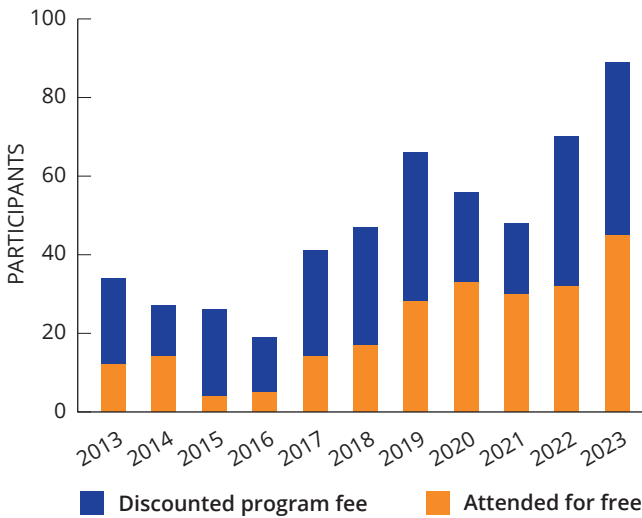
In 2023, 100 dedicated members of the SSP community came together to review 2,637 completed applications, more than ever.



Clarice K., '23

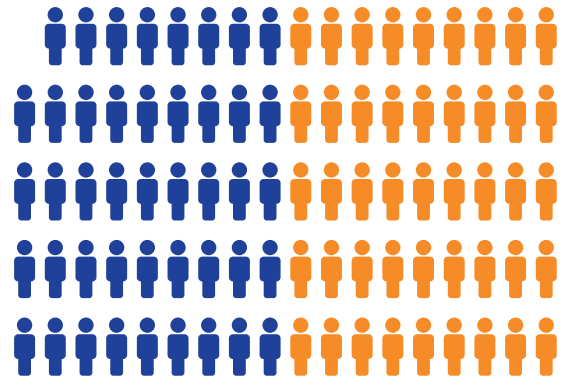
SSP had allowed me to meet the most unique, diverse group of people with the same ambitions as I. I am grateful to say that I am walking away with 35 friends from all over the world who have all inspired me to push toward new heights I had never myself imagined reaching. It truly is an “experience of a lifetime,” and I can’t wait to see where this transformative experience takes me.

## Financial Aid

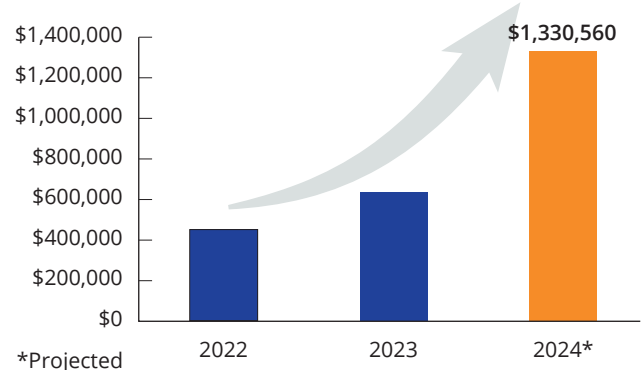


# \$634,075

Need-based aid offered in 2023



## Aid Money Given



Financial aid does not include travel or spending cash stipends provided to participants based on need.

## We brought the Summer Science Program to more talented students!

In 2023, SSP offered financial aid to 89 students and fully covered expenses for 45 of those participants, the highest amount of support we have been able to offer to date.

The cohort came from a variety of backgrounds, with record numbers of students identifying as rural, first-generation, low-income and from racial backgrounds underrepresented in STEM.



**Thank you to our  
2023 university partners!**

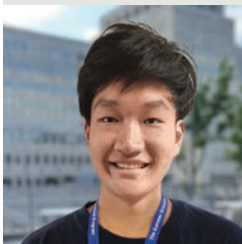


University of Colorado  
Boulder



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

“



**Ephraim C., '23**

*SSP has been such a wild ride, and I feel that this experience could not have been replicated elsewhere. Above all the lectures, problem sets, and labs, I feel that the most important part of the program that really sets it apart is the development of social skills and curiosity. Before SSP, I didn't really know how exactly to ask good questions that could contribute to a conversation, or talk to a professional in a field that I didn't know a ton about, but SSP has taught me to expand my horizons and be able to be comfortable with everyone else. While other summer experiences may allow you to learn the same or maybe more about the academic side of science, SSP's ability to teach you about communication is absolutely irreplaceable.*

”





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT  
**Bill Andersen**

**B**ill Andersen holds the distinction of being SSP's longest-running faculty member, having been an integral part of our Astrophysics program in New Mexico for 16 years as of summer 2023. Bill's journey as a physicist commenced at a young age, around four or five, when his mother made the mistake of telling him that falling cats always land on their feet. With the help of another budding scientist, he launched a sizable cat into the air, perplexed when the cat's owner, an elderly lady next door, expressed dismay despite the feline landing on its feet.

In subsequent years, Bill earned a B.S. in physics at Baylor University and a Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from MIT. Joining the faculty of the SSP astrophysics program in 2008, he has remained dedicated to this role and plans to return for his 17th summer this year. When asked about his continued involvement, Bill notes, "...it's fun, and I get to discuss physics and mathematics with people—students and other faculty—who care about these matters as much as I do."



Bill's 1st grade photo, where his lifelong passion for physics began.



Bill, on the far right, is joined by long-time SSP colleagues Adam Rengstorf and Barb Martinez at White Sands National Park.

# Alumni Spotlight



For decades, SSP has shaped the lives and careers of participants well beyond their summer experiences. Among the summer 2023 Teaching Assistants and Residential Mentors were alumni Jackson '20, Feli '20, and Ian '18. Their stories reflect the impact SSP has at a pivotal moment in a teen's life.



Jackson M., '20

Jackson, a Biomedical Engineering major with a focus on Genomics and Systems Biology at Johns Hopkins University, emphasized how the program instilled in him a love for science as a community effort. He highlighted the importance of creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable embracing their "inner nerd" and tackling challenges collaboratively. Jackson's journey from participant to TA was fueled by a desire to give back to a program that had been transformational for him. "As a participant, SSP encouraged growth, especially non-academic growth. It taught me how important STEM education is and how I want to help encourage that in others through my future career in law," Jackson explained.



2023 TA's at NMSU

Feli's journey with SSP was equally transformative. A physics major at MIT, she found that the program served as a keystone for her academic experience, pushing her past her comfort zone and shaping her college choice, major, and career aspirations. "SSP was the first 'serious' science experience I had in terms of doing research," Feli shared. Her growth from a high school participant to a college TA equipped her with insights into intellectual growth, kindness, and mentorship. Feli's return was driven by a commitment to helping participants navigate not only academic challenges but also the personal and emotional aspects of their journey.



Ian K., '18

Ian, who completed his BA in Physics at Harvard in 2023, highlighted the program's impact on collaborative skills. "This experience of learning how to handle difficult math and science classes helped me a lot in college," Ian noted. "I came [to college] knowing how to find groups of people to work with. Seeing SSP as a TA, this became even more apparent. No matter how academically well-prepared they were, this unique setting made sure that each participant had their own lesson to learn in how to work with others." Ian's journey from participant to TA underscored the program's capacity to instill valuable collaborative skills, contributing to his success in college and beyond.

Beyond academic achievements, SSP fosters collaboration, intellectual growth, and personal development, shaping the lives and careers of its alumni for decades.



Are you interested in returning to SSP as a TA? Let us know!





United by curiosity, driven by discovery! Participants of the Summer Science Program at Purdue embody the profound impact of working collaboratively, where every contribution fuels the journey towards shared success.



**Elgin T., '23**

“

*The essence of SSP is getting to learn in a new and life-changing way. It is getting to meet new, lifelong friends. It is getting to overcome challenges together, spend time together, and reflect together. SSP is not just about learning strictly for learning. It is about enjoying learning in a meaningful way that impacts your life. SSP has made me more open. I have come to know people who come from different backgrounds and have different world views. SSP made me grow academically in an engaging way and has made me grow in terms of the number of relationships that I have come to develop.*

”



## SSP Connect Guides Alumni Through Their College Admissions Journey

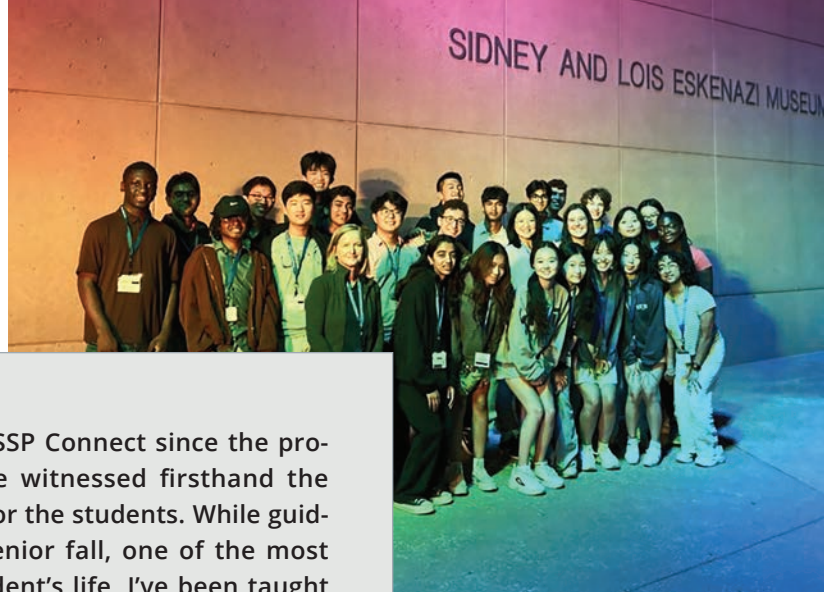
As the academic landscape becomes increasingly competitive, navigating the path to college admissions can be overwhelming, especially for first-generation college students and those applying for financial aid. Enter SSP Connect, a mentorship program organized by SSP to empower its recent alumni through the support of SSP's incredible alumni network.

In its fourth year, SSP Connect pairs the most recent SSP participants with seasoned young alumni mentors. This unique initiative, running from September to January each year, focuses on providing crucial support for mentees as they navigate the college admissions process.



Mentors, having successfully transitioned to college, lend a helping hand to their mentees, offering valuable insights, guidance, and a wealth of personal experiences. This mentorship doesn't just stop at academic advice; it extends to emotional support and encouragement, creating a bond that goes beyond the realm of academia. The program is open to all recent alumni, welcoming them into the supportive SSP alumni community.

For first-generation college attendees and those seeking financial aid, SSP Connect can be a lifeline. The mentors play a pivotal role in demystifying the complex world of admissions, sharing strategies and advice, and instilling the confidence needed to embark on the transformative journey of higher education. To learn more or get involved, email Kristen Dominguez at [kdominguez@ssp.org](mailto:kdominguez@ssp.org).



"I've been a mentor with SSP Connect since the program's inception, and I've witnessed firsthand the huge benefits it provides for the students. While guiding them through their senior fall, one of the most stressful seasons in a student's life, I've been taught the many different definitions of the word "mentor"—from a professional organizer and essay proofreader to a nonjudgmental listener and constant cheerleader.

Watching my mentees grow and flourish at great institutions, I've always felt that the steady support foundational to the SSP Connect program is its most valuable asset."

**Tomi S., '18**



"I am so thankful to the SSP Connect Mentor Program for providing me with a support system during this college application season. My family and I immigrated to the United States in 2010, so neither one of my parents had experiential knowledge to pass down to me regarding the application process. It was so nice to have the opportunity to talk to someone that has first-hand experience because there are so many discouraging narratives surrounding college applications that can be hard if you don't have the right support. My mentor, Tomi took the time to get to know me and understand my background as well as my goals for the future, so her advice was individualized and extremely beneficial. She encouraged me to make realistic schedules to keep myself accountable and gave the most thoughtful feedback on my writing. It was refreshing that she never tried to make me sound like something I wasn't. Instead, she helped me to present myself in the most authentic way possible. I think the most important thing this program and my mentor have provided me with is a space where I feel comfortable being honest with myself about college. Whether it be my preferences, my insecurities, my questions, or anything in between, I knew that I wouldn't be judged for them."

**Dibora (Dibo) Y., '23**

## SSP Connect (cont.)

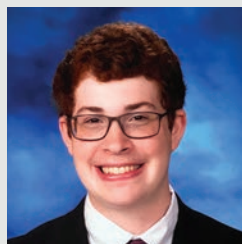


"For many young SSP alumni coming off the transformative experience of the program, they have just a year before the start of their next great adventure. In a few short months, they will need to balance application season with a potentially stressful senior year. Combined with uncertainty of college decisions, this time can be rife with anxiety. Through SSP Connect, these students gain the resource of someone who was in their exact position.

Over the four years I've been a mentor, each of my mentees has needed something different. Whether it be direct guidance through the application process, professional advice, or simply a new perspective, SSP Connect grants the flexibility to meet the diverse needs of post-program participants. I've loved getting to know my mentees, their goals, and what drives them. The retrospective reminds me of where I was nearly ten years ago, and helps frame my attitude as a mentor, teacher, and even researcher.

If SSP Connect had existed when I was coming out of the program, it would have been immensely valuable to me as a passionate teen uncertain about his future. Today, it allows me to serve the role I needed at that point in my life, and gives me the chance to give back to SSP after it granted me a life-changing experience."

**Anthony F., '14**



"Anthony was an incredible mentor. He was immensely supportive throughout SSP Connect. I did an independent study in Astrophysics, and through our meetings, Anthony was instrumental in helping me choose what I wanted to study and how to present it to the younger students I was working with. Anthony was also kind enough to share his research with me, giving me a thorough presentation on what he is studying in graduate school. His enthusiasm for his research strengthened my own developing interest in cosmology.

The SSP Connect program was very beneficial to me, as it provided support during the challenging college application journey and connected me with someone with similar interests who is at a point where I aspire to be one day. This connection was probably the most important part of the program for me. Our meetings were not just focused on advancing through academia, we talked about our shared enthusiasm for SSP and our similar experiences. Anthony and I continued to meet occasionally and I'm grateful to consider him not just as a mentor but also a friend."

**Sam K., '22**



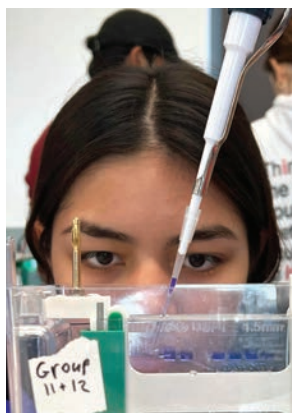
## Honoring the Enduring Legacy of Franklin Antonio

In 2023, SSP received a transformative bequest of approximately \$200 million from one of our alumni, Franklin Antonio '69. Although Franklin's passing in May 2022 left a profound void in the lives of those who knew him, his passion for innovation, education, and scientific exploration will live on through the opportunities that this generous donation affords to countless young minds. As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we invite you to join us in honoring Franklin Antonio.

Franklin Antonio, a trailblazer in the realm of technology, co-founded Qualcomm and held the position of Chief Scientist for many years. His leadership and unwavering commitment to innovation went beyond the boundaries of the business world. He was a committed philanthropist, leaving a lasting impact on the landscapes of education and scientific innovation.

His generous bequest stands as a testament to the life-long impact of SSP and the steadfast dedication of our alumni community—Franklin attributed much of his success to the formative experiences gained during his time at SSP.

With this substantial contribution, Franklin's legacy will reverberate for years to come, playing a pivotal role in enabling SSP to uphold its goal of nurturing a profound understanding and appreciation for scientific inquiry among young minds.



### Legacy Society

The SSP Legacy Society honors those supporting the Summer Science Program through planned gifts. Whether through bequests, beneficiary designations, or charitable gift annuities, these contributions ensure SSP's enduring excellence for generations to come. Your thoughtful involvement shapes the legacy of scientific education. For more information, email [donations@ssp.org](mailto:donations@ssp.org)

# Thank you to our donors

SSP would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous individuals and organizations who have fueled our mission to inspire young minds through hands-on scientific exploration. Your support propels the next generation to dream big and achieve even bigger. Together, we can build a brighter future through the **“experience of a lifetime.”**

*Lists reflect contributions for  
Fiscal Year '23 (October 1, 2022  
to September 30, 2023)*

## \$10,000 +

Anonymous  
Estate of Franklin  
Antonio '69  
Josh Dillon '04  
Adam Fried '81  
Gene Haas Foundation  
Indiana Space Grant  
Consortium  
Jade Tree Foundation  
Lilly  
Reagan Moore '62  
Henry Roe '91  
Timothy Ryan '72  
Nelson Seo  
Silicon Valley Community  
Foundation  
Jennifer & Linus Upson

## \$5,000 +

Lauren Blum '76  
Greg & Michelle Emi  
William Hawes '69  
Terrance Hodel '59  
Ron & Gail Irving '68  
Michael McKay '78  
Miruna Oprescu '09 &  
Eric Metodiev  
Jeff Saye '80  
Svelter Charitable Lead  
Unitrust  
Zhuang Tang & Gebing Yi  
Lisa Wang '04

## \$1,000 +

Duncan Agnew '67  
Anonymous  
Spencer Backus '05  
Edward Belove '67  
Edmund Bertschinger '75  
Stephen Blumenkranz '67  
Mr. & Mrs. R. William  
Bowdon  
Scott Bredall &  
Janie Yap-Bredall  
Michelle & Ronald Burch  
Gabriel Cadamuro '07  
Yoonjeong Cha '09  
Michelle Chang '06  
Clint Chapple  
Neha Chelamkuri '22  
Fang Chen & Zaijin Guan  
Pooja Chitnis  
Richard Chuang '74  
Leo & Jackie Connolly  
William Cox '11  
Don & Diana Davis  
William & Mac DeLoache  
Steve Dickman '79  
Jay Dratler '61  
Douglas Duncan '68  
Bruce Dunham '80  
James Durkee '73  
Susanne & Andy Esquivel  
Jennifer Factor  
Ed Fenstermacher '68  
Ronald Florence '59  
Carolyn Ge '17  
Charles Daniel Gelatt '64

Mark Green '63  
Alan Gross '62  
Steven Hall '60  
Woodruff Halsey  
Sayuri Desai Hanna &  
Rob Hanna '87  
Kenneth Hannsgen '59  
Randall Hargreaves  
Brian Hayes '84  
Yvette & Lawrence  
Hochberg  
Ian Hou  
Ivan Huang '91  
Mayavani Iyer '18  
Grant Johnson  
Terry Johnson '71  
Edward Kelm '62  
Jennifer & Edward Khouri  
Laurie & Reid Klion  
Eric Korevaar '76  
Michael Krippendorf '75  
Julian Krolik '66  
Dr. Richard Kubelka '69  
Jeffrey Lagarias '66  
David Latham '73  
Leslie Lee '90  
Joel Levin '65  
Kathleen Lewis  
Miao Li & Yu An  
Barry Lieberman '63  
Jun Lin & Siyuan Chen  
Dillon Liu '09  
Dr. N. Gregory Mankiw '75  
Jeff Marsh '71  
Scott Michael '84  
Maxwell Murialdo '06

Philip Nolan '76  
Martha Oakley  
Scott Pace '75  
Yen Pottinger  
Russell Quong '78  
Steven Hank  
Rappaport '74  
Douglas Richstone '66  
Paula Routly  
Stephanie & Frank Ruperto  
Janine Scancarelli '76  
Harold Schloss '76  
Richard Schumacher '74  
George Sharman '62  
Eric & Mary Smith '60  
Katherine Staton '76  
Stuart Stephens  
Gordon Stitt '73  
Christopher Su '06  
Mike Teodorescu '06  
Adam Thodey '91  
Jennine Townsend '78  
Barrie Trinkle '77  
Michael Turner '63  
Andrew Van Horn '62  
Oakley Van Slyke '64  
Sergei Vassilvitskii '97  
Laura Kang Ward '79  
Rick & Tamar Weerts  
Michael Weiss '74  
Julia & Conrad Winkler  
Chris Wyman '94  
Michael Wyman '97  
Cindy Zhang



## The President's Circle

SSP is profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of The President's Circle, our most steadfast contributors. They play a pivotal role in securing SSP's long-term success, with annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more, fueling our achievements and growth.

### PLATINUM LEVEL \$10,000+

Anonymous '70  
Josh Dillon '04  
Bruce Dunham '80  
Reagan Moore '62  
Henry Roe '91  
Timothy Ryan '72  
Cherry & Nelson Seo  
Jennifer & Linus Upson

### GOLD LEVEL \$5,000+

Greg & Michelle Emi  
William Hawes '69  
Terrance Hodel '59  
Ron & Gail Irving '68  
Miruna Oprescu &  
Eric Metodiev '09  
Zhuang Tang & Gebing Yi

### MEMBER LEVEL \$1,000+

Blaise Aguera y Arcas '92  
Dwight J. Baum '60  
Edmund Bertschinger '75  
Lauren Blum '76  
Stephen Blumenkranz '67  
Mr. & Mrs. R. William Bowdon

Michelle & Ronald Burch  
Gabriel Cadamuro '07  
Yoonjeong Cha '09  
Douglas & Grace Chin  
Leo & Jackie Connolly  
Don & Diana Davis  
Steve Dickman '79  
Jay Dratler '61  
Douglas Duncan '68  
James Durkee '73  
Susanne & Andy Esquivel  
Ed Fenstermacher '68  
Ronald Florence '59  
Charles Daniel Gelatt '64  
Alan Gross '62  
Steven Hall '60  
Sayuri Desai Hanna &  
Rob Hanna '87  
Yvette & Lawrence Hochberg  
Edward Kelm '62  
Jennifer & Edward Khouri  
Eric Korevaar '76  
Michael Krippendorf '75  
Julian Krolik '66  
Dr. Richard Kubelka '69  
David Latham '73  
Joel Levin '65

Barry Lieberman '63  
Jun Lin & Siyuan Chen  
Michael McKay '78  
Scott Michael '84  
Philip Nolan '76  
Scott Pace '75  
William Rosenberg '59  
Stephanie & Frank Ruperto  
Janine Scancarelli '76  
Harold Schloss '76  
Richard Schumacher '74  
George Sharman '62  
Helen Shin '82  
Eric & Mary Smith '60  
Katherine Staton '76  
Christopher Su '06  
Adam Thodey '91  
Eugene Thomas '83  
Barrie Trinkle '77  
Michael Turner '63  
Andrew Van Horn '62  
Lisa Wang '04  
Laura Kang Ward '79  
Rick & Tamar Weerts  
Michael Weiss '74  
Chris Wyman '94  
Michael Wyman '97

## Thank you to our corporate partners

Agilent  
Apple Inc.  
Bank of America Foundation

Battelle  
Google  
NVidia  
Playstation Cares

Purdue University  
Thermo-Fischer Scientific  
University of Colorado



## A Year of Remarkable Growth

In the past 18 months, SSP International has undergone a remarkable transformation, experiencing unprecedented growth and expansion. From having just one full-time staff member, SSP has evolved into an organization boasting a team of 14 staff members in FY23.

The overwhelming support for SSP's transition to a new nonprofit governance structure has played a crucial role in its recent success. Now operating as SSP International, Inc. and incorporated as a nonprofit in Delaware, the organization is poised for continued growth. This change in governance was overwhelmingly approved by the alumni, with approximately 80% of those casting votes in favor of the proposal. This stands as a testament to the community's commitment and support of SSP. The organization will continue to be governed by the same dedicated board and officers who have been instrumental in SSP's continued success.

With this new governance structure, SSP International is now better equipped to protect and manage assets generously provided by the estate of Franklin Antonio '69. This transformative step opens the door to a future filled with possibilities, allowing for the introduction of additional programs, enhancement of faculty resources, expansion of opportunities for qualified applicants, and increased provision of financial aid.

As a first step, SSP International is set to operate 12 programs in summer 2024 at 8 campuses, welcoming around 400 participants and new SSPers. To strengthen our connection with the SSP community, we have created a dedicated staff role for alumni relations and support. For those interested in getting involved or sharing ideas on how we can better support our alumni, please reach out to Katherine Hougland, VP of External Affairs, at [khougland@ssp.org](mailto:khougland@ssp.org).

### Board of Directors

**Mike McKay '78**  
*Board Chair*

**Phil Nolan '76**  
*Vice Chair*

**Lauren Blum '76**  
*Treasurer*

**Helen Shin '82**  
*Secretary*

**Ron Irving '68**  
*Immediate Past Chair*

**Minosca Alcántara**

**Ricky Balthrop '74**

**Ed Bertschinger '75**

**Yoonjeong Cha '09**

**Michelle Chang '06**

**Clint Chapple**

**Quinton McArthur**

**Martha Oakley**

**Miruna Oprescu '09**

**Karl Sun**

**Mike Weiss '74**

**Here's to a future of continued growth, innovation, and community at SSP International!**



# 2023 Financial Summary

SSP's fiscal year begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. Our independently audited financial statements for FY 2023 are available to view at [www.ssp.org/support](http://www.ssp.org/support) or through scanning the QR code.



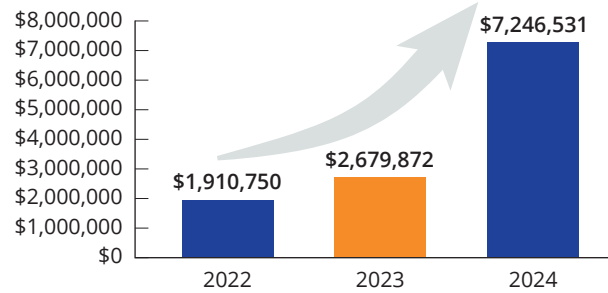
## We're growing!

In FY 2023, we expanded to:

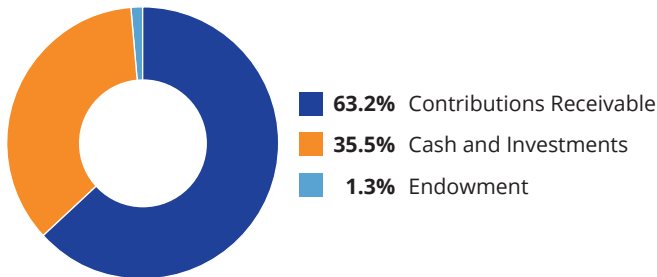
**14** year-round staff

**48** summer faculty and supporting staff

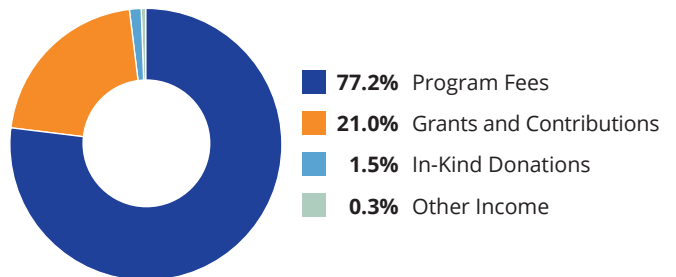
### Operating Budget Growth



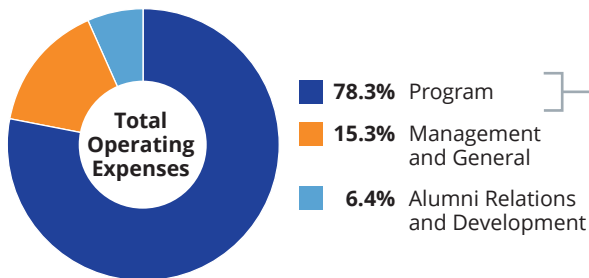
### Total Assets as of 09/30/2023 \$202,124,062



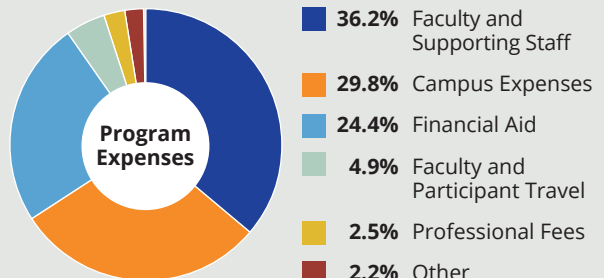
### FY 2023 Operating Revenue

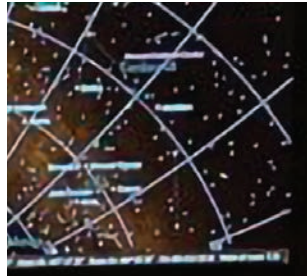
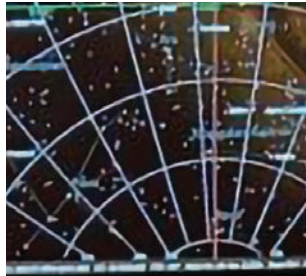
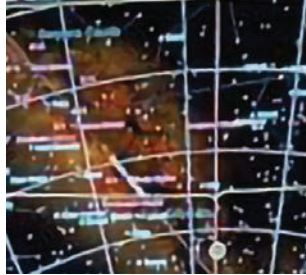


### FY 2023 Operating Expenses



### FY 2023 Program Expenses





**SSP International, Inc.**

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