

20 ANNUAL 24 REPORT

A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR OF **SHAPING OUR FUTURE**



SSP International has experienced a transformative year, thanks to the dedication of our team, the vision of our board, and the unwavering support of individuals like you. As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for the opportunities we have created together.

This year, we proudly launched a bold 10-Year Strategic Plan, shaped with the help of outside expert consultants, the guidance of our board and staff, and valuable feedback from stakeholders, including students, alumni, and supporters. This forward-looking plan charts a path to expand access, deepen programmatic excellence, and inspire the next generation of leaders.

In alignment with this vision, we unveiled the corporate brand for SSP International while honoring and maintaining the legacy of the Summer Science Program logo. Our new corporate logo and identity reflect the energy, innovation, and inclusivity of our current and future programs. You can learn more about our strategic priorities and the story behind the new brand in “A Dynamic Year of Growth” (pages 4-5).

We’ve expanded our infrastructure and added key staff, including a total of five with PhDs in science or education, to ensure that SSPI’s programs remain exceptional. Over the summer, we served hundreds of students across 12 transformative programs, fostering curiosity, collaboration, and personal growth. To support this growing impact, we have expanded to new campus locations across the U.S., from coast to coast, and now into Canada, making our programs more accessible to students and communities than ever before.

These milestones are a testament to the commitment of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. Your belief in our mission is what makes these accomplishments possible.

As we look to the future, we do so with optimism and resolve. With your continued support, SSPI will expand its reach and inspire generations to come.



Frank Steslow
CEO



Michael McKay '78
Board Chair

SSPI BOARD MEMBERS

As of Jan. 1, 2025

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Mike Weiss '74

Thank you to outgoing board members **Minosca Alcantara** and **Ed Bertschinger '75** for their service on the SSPI Board in FY 2024.

OUR MISSION

SSPI provides students with immersive, transformational opportunities to learn, do, and belong in science.

OUR VISION

We envision a world in which science inspires and informs humanity.

INNOVATION IS IN OUR DNA

OUR VALUES

INCLUSION – We cultivate an inclusive environment where diversity fuels curiosity and transformation.

CHALLENGE – We engage ourselves and one another, building an environment of constant discovery.

COLLABORATION – We embrace immersive experiences, fostering teamwork, trust, enthusiasm, and innovation.

COMMUNITY – We build lifelong community that thrives on integrity and collective growth. We develop a lifelong sense of togetherness and collective support.

A DYNAMIC YEAR OF GROWTH

SSP International continues to chart a **bold future** for science education.



Since its founding in 1959, the Summer Science Program has led science education, inspiring high school students through hands-on scientific inquiry. As SSP International (SSPI) looks toward the future, it embarks on a transformative journey, driven by a bold 10-year strategic plan designed to expand its impact, broaden its reach, and transform the lives of young scientists around the world. SSPI's goal is to serve 10,000 students annually across all programs within the next decade. Here's how we plan to do it:

Scale: Build a More Scalable Operation for Growth

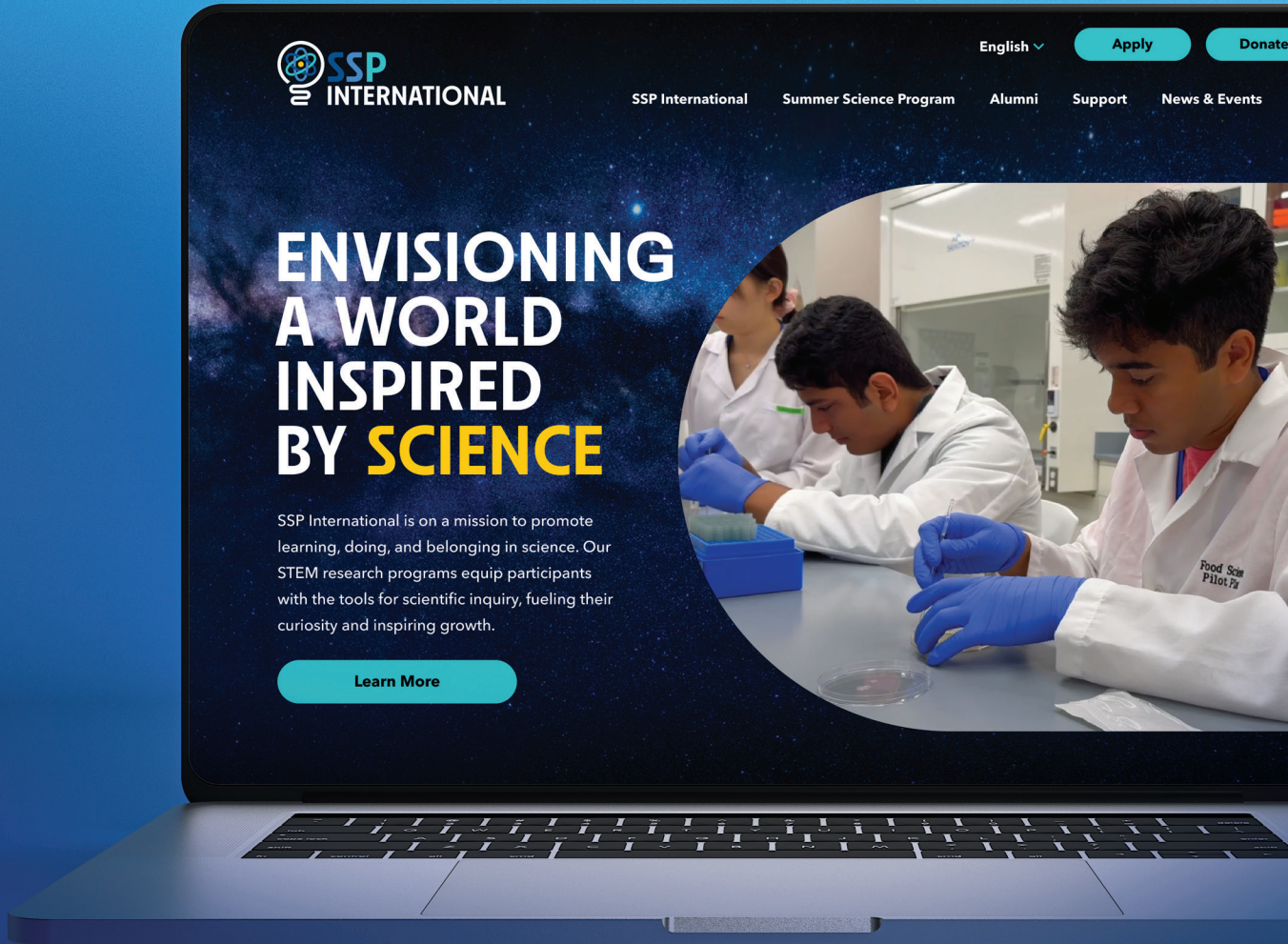
SSPI aims to create a scalable operation that supports sustainable growth. By strengthening infrastructure and forming strategic partnerships, SSPI will expand the reach of its flagship Summer Science Program and add new, complementary programs. This growth will allow SSPI to reach more students and provide rigorous educational opportunities that inspire future leaders in STEM fields.

Diversify: Expand Perspectives, Subject Matter, and Revenue

SSPI is committed to increasing the diversity of its participants and the experiences it offers. The organization will increase representation among students and expand curriculum to engage a wider range of learners. SSPI will also diversify funding sources to ensure the long-term sustainability of its programs while raising brand awareness to connect with new communities and supporters.

Transform: Catalyze Meaningful Change and Growth

At its core, SSPI seeks to catalyze meaningful change in students' lives. SSPI will expand student potential by providing impactful educational experiences that foster critical thinking and scientific curiosity. Through intentional community-building, SSPI strives to inspire a lifelong passion for scientific discovery, ensuring lasting impacts among participants, alumni, staff, and stakeholders. SSPI will ensure programmatic impacts that enhance the quality and relevance of SSP's educational experiences and strengthening its reputation as a leader in science education.



A New Brand and Website to Propel SSPI Into the Future

As SSPI enters an exciting new chapter, its refreshed brand will reflect its mission to provide students with immersive, transformational opportunities to learn, do, and belong in science. This new brand encapsulates SSPI's commitment to creating environments where students not only acquire knowledge but also actively engage in the practice of science and become part of a community of thinkers and doers. The brand reflects SSPI's focus on nurturing curiosity, fostering discovery, and empowering the next generation of scientists in a way that goes beyond the classroom experience.

To further support this mission, SSP International has launched a newly redesigned website that will serve as a dynamic platform for applicants, alumni, and supporters. The updated site features improved navigation, engaging content, and a more user-friendly interface, making it easier for students to apply, alumni to stay connected, and supporters to engage with the organization's mission. This enhanced digital presence is the key to helping SSPI achieve its 10-year goals, enabling the organization to better communicate its vision, expand its impact, and foster a stronger, more connected community.

To learn more about SSPI's strategic plan and how it is shaping the future of science education, please visit ssp.org.

A CLOSER LOOK AT SUMMER 2024



Applications for this year's Summer Science Program hit an **all-time high**, culminating in 12 programs on eight campuses.

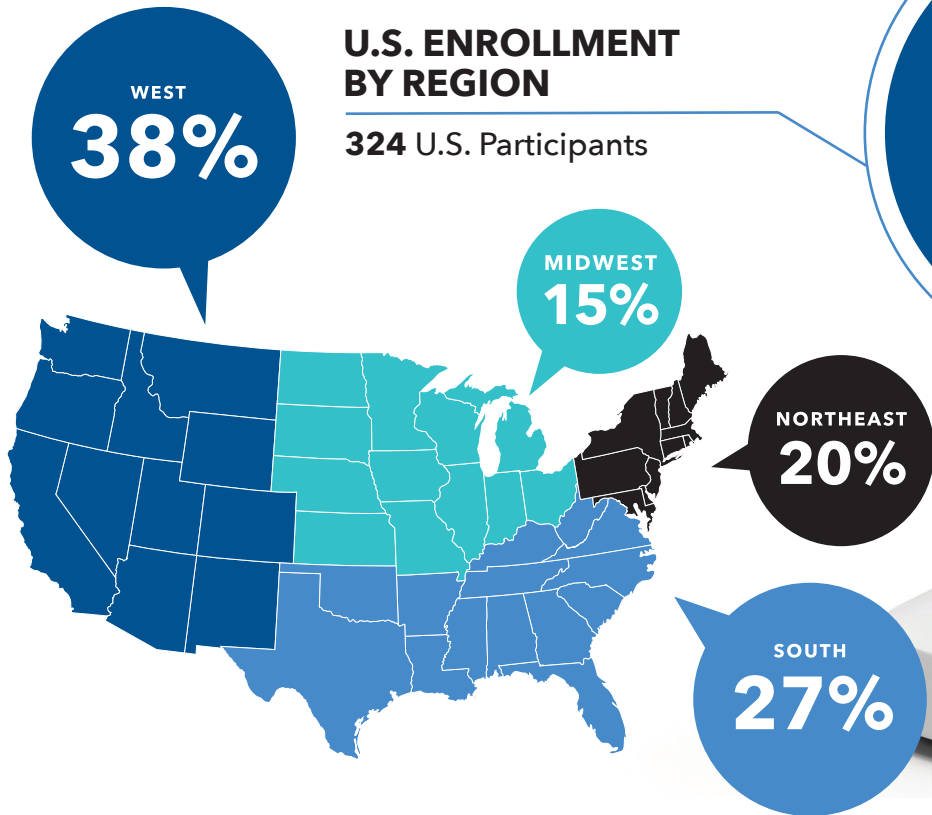
On July 31, the Summer Science Program successfully concluded 2024 program operations, closing out the last of 12 programs operated at eight campuses. Despite an eventful summer navigating challenges such as travel issues, unexpected removal of laundry machines, unpredictable weather, equipment malfunctions, and last-minute catering cancellations, the largest group of SSPers ever thrived as they lived and worked (and played a bit, too!) alongside each other in their STEM enrichment "experience of a lifetime."



372
PARTICIPANTS

U.S. ENROLLMENT BY REGION

324 U.S. Participants



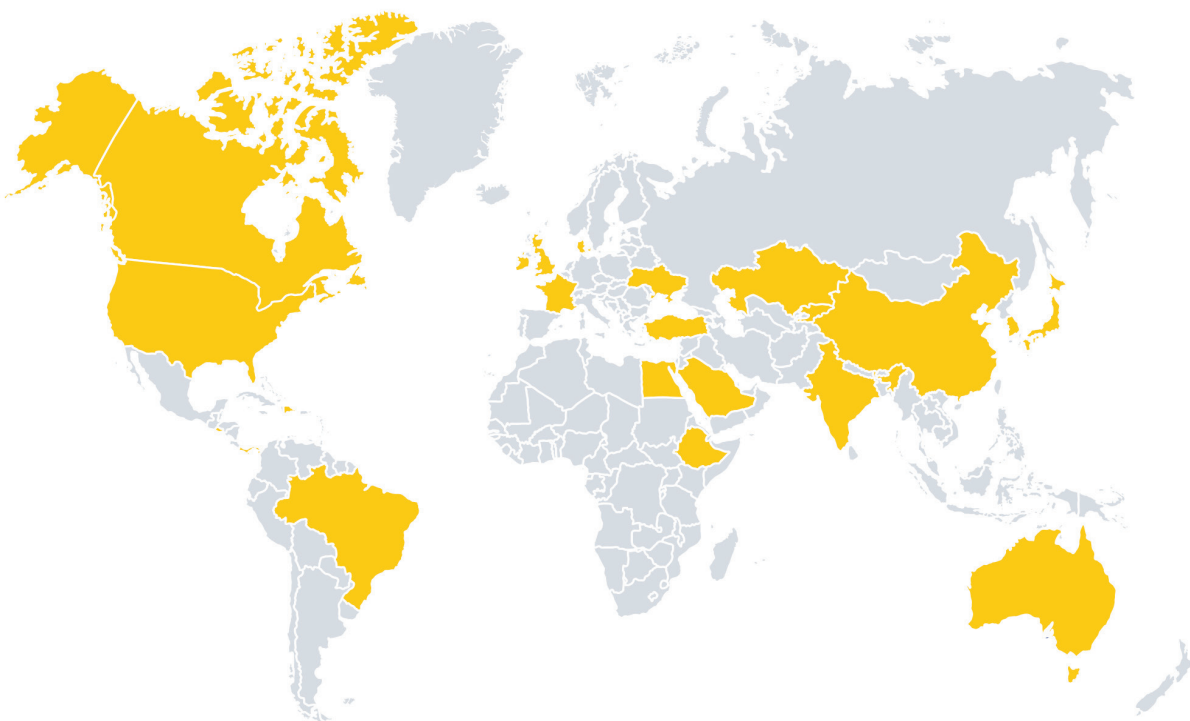
Summer 2024 was a summer of firsts for the Summer Science Program. For the first time ever, three programs ran concurrently at two different campuses. New Mexico State University hosted two Astrophysics programs and a Bacterial Genomics program, and Purdue University hosted two Biochemistry programs and a Bacterial Genomics program. The third Bacterial Genomics program was held at Georgetown University, and Biochemistry returned for a third summer to Indiana University. In addition to the NMSU programs, Astrophysics was held for the first time at Georgia College and State University, while returning to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and, for the 10th consecutive summer, to the University of Colorado Boulder. A successful pilot program at Southwestern Oklahoma

State University for an exciting new Synthetic Chemistry program rounded out the summer programs.

Interest hit an all-time high for the 2024 programs, with **over 3,400 applications**. Thanks to the dedication of the admissions team and valued volunteers, the admissions process resulted in an overall enrollment of **372 participants**. Despite the expected growing pains associated with doubling the number of 2023 programs, SSP International welcomed a record number of participants and faculty into the Summer Science Program family and celebrated the brilliant successes of each person, project, and program in Summer 2024.

INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT BY COUNTRY

48 International Participants



- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- France
- India
- Ireland
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Panama
- Republic of Korea
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Türkiye
- United Kingdom
- Ukraine

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FROM STARGAZER TO DATA SCIENCE INNOVATOR



Michael Bagalman '87

For Michael Bagalman, the Summer Science Program was more than just a summer—it was the launchpad for a life defined by curiosity, collaboration, and a love of learning.

Michael's enthusiasm for science, particularly astronomy, started young. By his junior year of high school in New Orleans he was active in his school's astronomy club. Knowing of his interest, his calculus teacher handed him a Summer Science Program brochure instead of pinning it to the school bulletin board. In 1987, he joined 35 other teens in Ojai, California, and as he puts it, "It became the best summer ever."

Michael's Summer Science Program experience is a collection of vivid snapshots: tracking 49 Pales in the middle of the night, poring over *Gravitation* by John Wheeler in

the Thacher School library, and marveling at guest speakers like physicist David Politzer. Among those moments, one speaker left a lasting impact. An executive from Bank of America emphasized that training in math and science was more than an academic tool—it was a framework for thinking logically, making rational decisions, and succeeding in any field. "That talk gave me the courage to change course," Michael says, reflecting on a major life decision, choosing a career in business rather than a PhD and academia.

Today, Michael is the Vice President of Business Intelligence and Data Science at Starz. Just as he learned that summer that six numbers can describe a planet's entire orbit, he now captures business realities with a handful of metrics and models. Beyond his corporate role, he teaches Marketing & Media Analytics for the University of Oklahoma.

His advice to incoming Summer Science Program participants? "Don't stress. Your value as a person isn't tied to accolades. And—trust me—listen to Baz Luhrmann's *Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)*. Play it, absorb it, live it."

ENSURING SSPI THRIVES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



For Dr. Kenneth Hannsgen, the Summer Science Program has always been about two things: exceptional participants and a program of unparalleled quality. As a proud member of the inaugural class in 1959, Dr. Hannsgen has played a key role in ensuring the program thrives for future generations. A donor since SSPI became a nonprofit in 1999, Dr. Hannsgen initially began donating out of solidarity with his classmates, but his continued support is rooted in the program's remarkable impact and careful stewardship.

As a student from Narbonne, a Los Angeles public high school, Dr. Hannsgen found camaraderie among peers and guidance from role models like Academic Directors Foster Strong and Paul Routly at the Summer Science Program. "Their perspectives stayed with me," he says.

What truly motivates Dr. Hannsgen to continue his giving, however, is not nostalgia alone, but the enduring quality of the program today. "I've been impressed by the high achievers the program has produced. The leadership has been excellent, especially in how it has expanded within its core expertise while maintaining quality."

He appreciates SSPI's commitment to serving students with the most to gain rather than focusing solely on building "fancy résumés." That focus on mission and integrity, combined with fond memories and his time with like-minded peers, keeps Dr. Hannsgen connected to the Summer Science Program's legacy.

"I've been impressed by the high achievers SSPI has produced. The leadership has been excellent, especially in how it has expanded within its core expertise while maintaining quality."



Dr. Kenneth Hannsgen '59

"Memories got me started, but the quality of the program is the main factor now," he says.

Dr. Hannsgen and his wife, Hildur, met while attending Dartmouth College and have been together since. Beyond the Summer Science Program, Dr. Hannsgen has been a devoted Dodgers fan since birth, with interests in current affairs, history, and classic films. He now channels his love for excellence into helping inspire the next generation of leaders in science, mathematics, and beyond.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

SSPI 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.”

SSPI DONORS

Lists reflect contributions for Fiscal Year '24 (October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024).

**Denotes President's Circle members*

\$10,000+

Anonymous (3)
Estate of Franklin Antonio '69
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Lauren Blum '76*
Josh Dillon '04*

Dr. Bruce Dunham '80*
Michael McKay '78*
Reagan Moore '62*
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Henry Roe '91*
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Gordon Stitt '73
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous (1)
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Richard Chuang '74
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\$1,000 - \$4,999
CONTINUED

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Leo & Jackie Connolly	Michael Krippendorf '75*	Harold Schloss '76*
Cantor Kyle Cotler	Julian Krolik '66*	Richard Schumacher '74*
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Adam Fried '81	Jeff Marsh '71	Michael Turner '63*
Charles Daniel Gelatt '64*	Quinton McArthur	Andrew Van Horn '62*
Mark Green '63	Scott Michael '84*	Oakley Van Slyke '64
Danya Greider	Richard & Helaine Mintz	Sergei Vassilvitskii '97
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Matthew Jachowski '01	Frank & Stephanie Ruperto*	Michael Wyman '97*
Robert Kaminsky '74	Jeff Saye '80	Chris Wyman '94*

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous (1)	Sunny Kim	Lara Salamacha '85
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Rachel Berk '97	Wansu Lee & Sohee Kim	Richard Shibley '75
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Wing Ho '97	Dr. Norris Preyer '70	Aihong Zhang
Jeanine Hoffmann '81	Douglas Richstone '66	

***PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS**

SSPI deeply values the unwavering support of the President's Circle. With annual unrestricted contributions of at least \$1,000, these donors play a crucial role in advancing our mission and ensuring SSPI's continued success. Members of the President's Circle are designated with an icon on our donor list, recognizing their generosity and commitment.

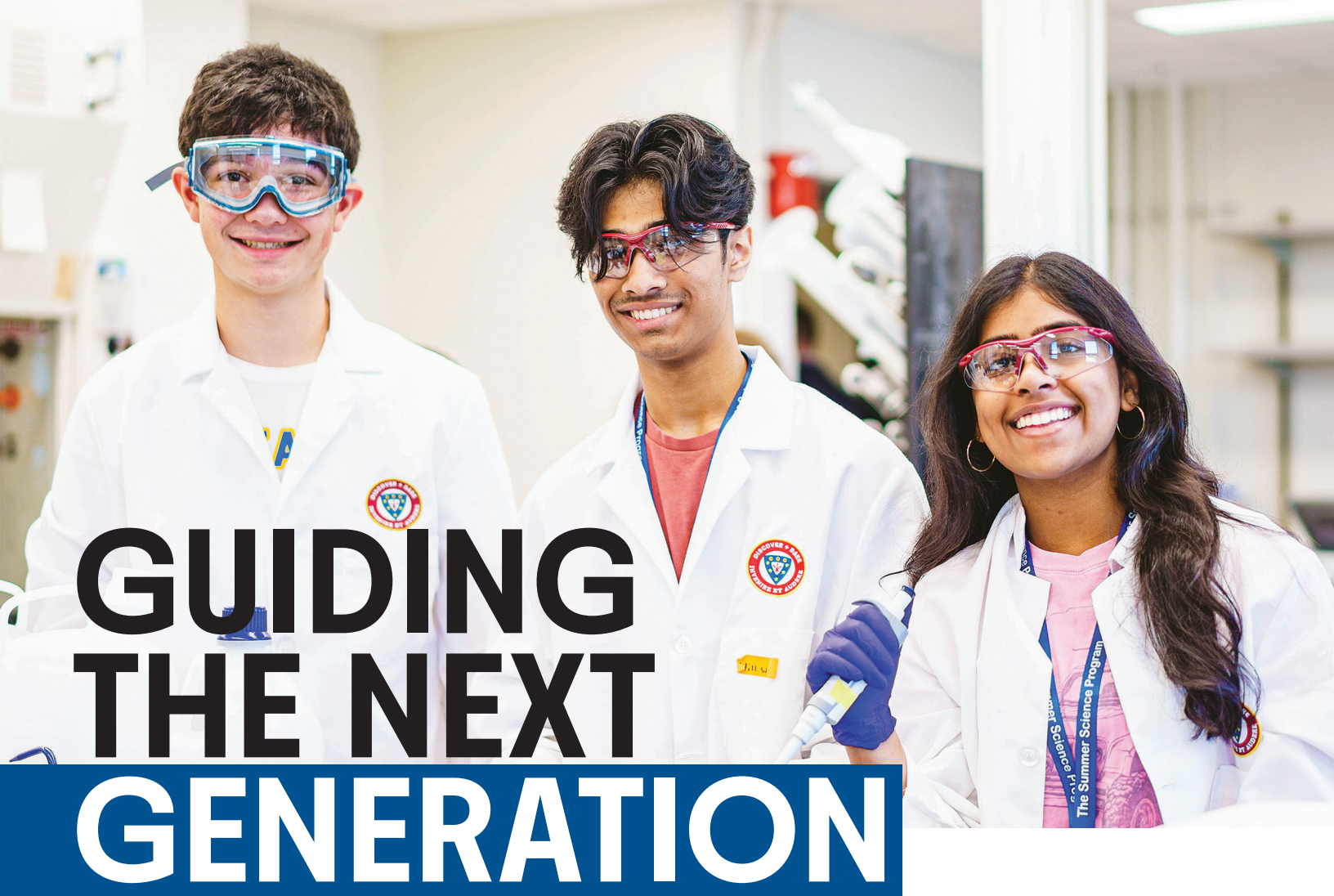
ABELL CIRCLE

SSPI is honored to recognize the members of the Abell Circle for their commitment to expanding access to the Summer Science Program. Established in tribute to George Abell's enduring legacy, this giving circle provides vital financial aid, enabling students from all backgrounds to participate in the transformative educational experience. With annual gifts of \$10,000 or lifetime contributions of \$100,000, Abell Circle members profoundly impact the lives of future leaders while strengthening SSPI's mission to inspire learning, discovery, and belonging in science.

Anonymous (1)	Michael McKay '78
Dwight Baum '60	Reagan Moore '62
Lauren Blum '76	Philip Nolan '76
Joshua Dillon '04	Julie Cotler Pottinger
Bruce Dunham '80	Henry Roe '91
Ron Irving '68 & Gail Irving	Tim Ryan '72
Susan Jerian '79	Gordon Stitt '73
Mitchell Kapor '66	Karl & Lisa Sun
Eric Korevaar '76	Barrie Trinkle '77
Henry Lichstein '60	Duowei Xu

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS

Agilent	Google	Simons Foundation
Apple Inc.	Indiana Space Grant Consortium	State Farm & State Farm Companies Foundation
Bank of America Foundation	Intel	Thermo-Fischer Scientific
Battelle	Jade Tree Foundation	Qualcomm
Capital Counsel LLC	Lucky Seven Foundation	UnitedHealth Group
Eli Lilly & Co	NVIDIA	University of Colorado Boulder
Gene Haas Foundation	Purdue University	



GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION

SSP Connect continues to evolve as a dynamic mentorship program.

Now in its fifth year, the SSP Connect mentoring program has grown substantially, serving 233 mentees with the support of 108 dedicated mentors in 2024. This growth has not only expanded our reach but also empowered each mentee to grow personally and academically. To meet the diverse needs of participants, the program is divided into individual and group mentoring.

First-generation college students and financial aid recipients are matched with individual mentors, ensuring tailored, one-on-one support. For all other alumni, group mentoring provides a collaborative and enriching experience, fostering a sense of community and shared growth.

Each week, our mentors lead interactive sessions, engaging our mentees in discussions and activities on a wide range of topics crucial for college preparation, including

holistic college selection, scholarships and financial aid, networking, transitioning to college life, integrating into the campus community, and finding research opportunities.

Equally important, SSP Connect offers college admissions roundtables, a unique opportunity for mentees to gain valuable insights and firsthand experiences from college admissions representatives and SSP alumni. These roundtables are designed to equip mentees with knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their college journey.

Additionally, mentees have the opportunity to receive feedback on their admissions essays and supplemental questions before the early decision deadlines, helping them present their strongest applications.

As we look ahead, SSPI hopes to continue fostering life-long relationships with our participants, empowering them to achieve their goals and make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

LEADING WITH VISION AND DEDICATION

For Barb Martinez, the Summer Science Program has always been about two things: inspiring students and fostering a program of exceptional impact. Barb, as the longest-running site director, has left an indelible mark on hundreds of participants through her leadership and passion.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, Barb holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, another in education, and a master's in science teaching from New Mexico Tech.

Barb's Summer Science Program journey began at Besant Hill School in Ojai, California, in 2008, and has since spanned multiple campuses. What motivates her most is witnessing the transformation of the participants. One of her favorite memories is of a teen from New York City who, upon seeing the Milky Way for the first time under the New Mexico sky, was moved to tears and decided to pursue astrophysics. For Barb, moments like these capture the essence of the program's impact.

Her proudest accomplishment is watching participants grow—from curious students to returning TAs and, in one case, even a site director. "The participants are what keep

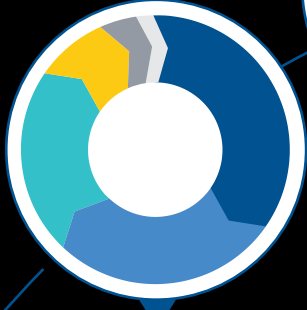
"The participants are what keep me coming back. Their dedication, curiosity, and motivation never cease to amaze me. And the Summer Science Program family is a joy to work with every year."



Barb Martinez,
Faculty, Astrophysics

me coming back," she says. "Their dedication, curiosity, and motivation never cease to amaze me. And the Summer Science Program family is a joy to work with every year."

Barb's enduring leadership and passion are integral to the Summer Science Program's legacy, inspiring all who have the privilege to work with her.



Investing in Our Participants

- Faculty & Staff: **34.7%**
- Campus Expenses: **27.4%**
- Financial Aid: **22.6%**
- Professional Services: **8.7%**
- Travel & Training: **4.4%**
- Other Expenses: **2.3%**

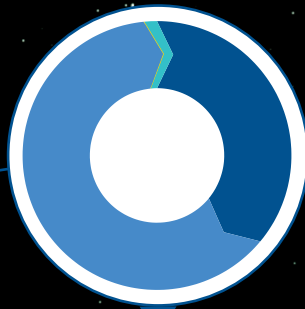
Total Program Expenses:
\$6,753,076



How We Spend Our Funds

- Program: **82.8%**
- Management: **11.9%**
- Fundraising & Alumni Relations: **5.4%**

FY24 Operating Expenditures: **\$8,157,625**



Financial Stability

- Cash & Investments: **36.0%**
- Contributions Receivable: **62.3%**
- Other Assets: **0.1%**
- Endowment: **1.5%**

Total Assets: **\$204,989,025**



Financial Support*

- Program Fees: **29.9%**
- Grants & Contributions: **4.8%**
- Investment Income: **65.2%**
- Other Income: **0.2%**

Total: **\$10,870,725**

*Includes unrealized gains/losses



Contributions by Donor Type

- Individual: **74.5%**
- Corporate: **4.0%**
- Foundation: **16.6%**
- Other: **4.8%**

FY24 Contributions:
\$516,918

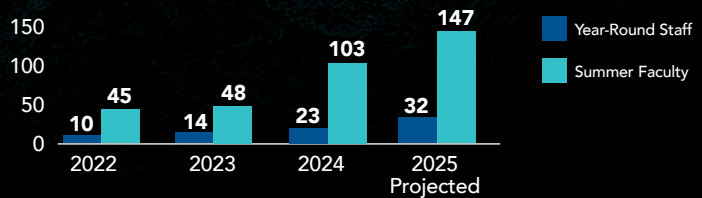
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

In FY 2024, SSP International, Inc. had gross revenue and public support of \$10.9 million and operating expenditures, including financial aid, of \$8.2 million. Total assets were \$205 million. SSPI's operating funds come from three main funding sources: revenues from programs, contributions, and investment income.

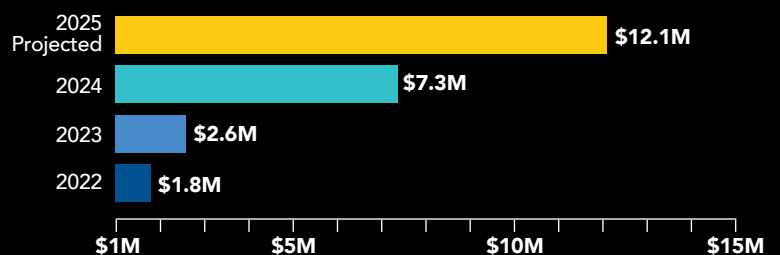
We're Growing!

SSPI invested \$6.75 million to empower participants to learn, do, and belong in science. More than 47% of these funds directly supported aspiring first-generation college students, rural students, low-income students, and students from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM.

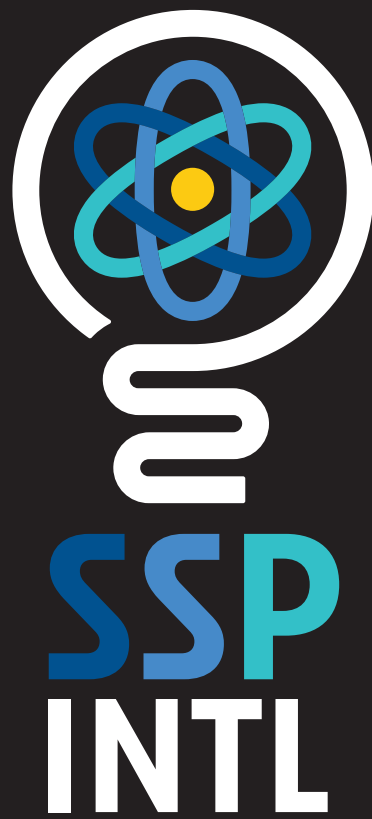
Staff & Faculty



Operating Budget



For FY 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024), SSP International, Inc. obtained an independent audit of its financial statements. Scan the QR code to access a copy.



SSP.ORG