

EDITOR'S PICK

Hammond Education Foundation receives \$20K gift from BP

Adrian Martinez-De La Cruz Sep 3, 2024 0



The BP Whiting Refinery is shown.
Joseph S. Pete



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Adrian Martinez-De La Cruz

HAMMOND — The Hammond Education Foundation announced last week it had received a \$20,000 gift from BP America, through the Whiting Refinery, to support its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Acorn Grants.

The STEM Acorn Grants will be available for the 2025-26 academic year to School City of Hammond educators who develop innovative learning experiences focused on any STEM curriculum area.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Hammond Education Foundation and introduce more STEM initiatives to local schools," said Chris DellaFranco, vice president of refining at the Whiting Refinery, in a news release.

According to Roxanna O'Rourke, executive director of the Hammond Education Foundation, the grants were able to fund Project Lead the Way STEM curriculum for both Hammond high schools and both middle schools.

The foundation awarded **eight Acorn Grants totaling \$19,000** in June to fund educational projects in the school city for this academic year.

"Supporting teachers with resources for educational opportunities that typically are not covered by school or classroom budgets is crucial for the success of our students as they develop into lifelong learners," O'Rourke said. "By directing these funds toward STEM projects, we also give students the chance to explore and value these rapidly expanding fields."

The Hammond Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization and philanthropic partner of Hammond schools. The foundation has reportedly generated nearly \$2 million in scholarships, classroom grants, programs and other support to help Hammond students.