



2025
2026

ANNUAL REPORT



Education for a
Better Future



STEAM Learning



Bridging the
Digital Divide



Estella's
BRILLIANTBUS
A Class Act Learning Center

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REFLECTING ON 2025: CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Reflecting on 2025: *As we look back on 2025, I feel truly honored to carry forward the legacy of my mother, Estella Pyfrom, the founder of Estella's Brilliant Bus. My mother devoted her retirement to closing the digital divide and delivering education, technology, and opportunities directly to the children and families in greatest need. Her vision was anchored in service, compassion, and the belief that every child deserves access to the essential tools for learning, growth, and bold dreaming.*

The Power of Community: *Once again, I am reminded of the incredible strength that comes from community. When teachers, volunteers, families, donors, corporate partners, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders unite with a shared purpose, we create meaningful, lasting change. At Estella's Brilliant Bus, this spirit of collaboration remains at the heart of all our endeavors.*

Daily Opportunities to Serve: *Each day presents us with a fresh opportunity to serve. Whether we are mentoring students, assisting families in accessing food and essential resources, connecting volunteers with impactful opportunities, or paving the way for students to engage with STEAM education, our mission thrives because of the generosity and commitment of those who believe in our cause.*

Among our accomplishments: *our students achieved first place for their Marketing Display at the MATE ROV Competition, and all our robotics team graduates have enrolled in college to pursue STEAM careers. Furthermore, our Brilliant Minds students logged an impressive 1,405 hours of community service. These achievements signify more than just awards or milestones; they embody the confidence, creativity, perseverance, and brilliance of the young individuals we are privileged to support.*

Transformative Impact: *Throughout the year, parents, teachers, supporters, and local nonprofit agencies have witnessed the transformative impact of Estella's Brilliant Bus on the lives of students and families. We are proud to collaborate with Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation, Palm Beach County Boys & Girls Club, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, UPMI STEAM, and others to foster STEAM learning and digital technology. Additionally, we celebrated significant milestones, honored exceptional volunteers and community leaders, and prepared for our Building Brilliant Minds initiatives, including summer camps and STEAM projects for the Glades and Palm Beach County. Each step we take brings us closer to a stronger, healthier, and more empowered community.*

Looking Ahead: *As we move forward, we remain unwavering in our commitment to serve more students and families while honoring the foundation my mother lovingly established. Her legacy endures not only through Estella's Brilliant Bus but also through every child who gains confidence, every family that receives support, and every community member who dedicates their time, resources, and heart to this mission.*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, and the brilliant youth we serve, thank you for your steadfast support. Your generosity is making a genuine difference, and together, we will continue to advance Estella's vision.

Warmest regards,

Mia Pyfrom
Executive Director



Mia Pyfrom, Executive Director.



We are committed to continuing the legacy of the late Estella Pyfrom, the founder of Estella's Brilliant Bus.

SUMMARY



EDUCATE



STEAM Learning - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

EXPOSE



Digital Technologies, Robotics, Drones, MATE ROV Competitions, STEAM Learning Garden, Tours, and more.

EMPOWER



Mentorship, tutoring, community service hours, and leadership workshops.

TOMORROW'S JOBS = STEM JOBS!

SUMMARY

Estella's Brilliant Bus, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Florida, has proudly served children since 2008. Our core belief is to educate, expose, and empower students in grades K-12th by providing exemplary educational tools that enable them to thrive. Our 2025/26 Annual Report highlights the profound impact we've had the privilege to make in the lives of children, families, and the communities we serve.

MISSION AND HISTORY

Our mission focuses on educating young minds, exposing youth to opportunities, and empowering them to create positive change that leaves an enduring impact. Estella's Brilliant Bus offers supplementary learning programs during school hours, after school, in summer school, and during school breaks. Our innovative mobile learning labs, known as the Brilliant Buses, play a crucial role in our program's success and sustainability. They provide access to digital technology, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), SEL (Social-Emotional Learning), and food assistance programs, as well as essential services for low-income families and the elderly. Founded by our late visionary, Estella Pyfrom, we have continued her legacy of reaching communities to deliver essential services, impacting over 2,500 students and 425 families and senior citizens annually.



THE NEWS IS OUT

The Boca Raton Tribune
Your Closest Neighbor



KOP QUEST CAMP:

Students at the KOP Quest Camp were given a unique opportunity to engage in immersive activities including a flight simulation experience that combined technology, creativity, and hands-on exercises.

The GTAC welcomed Mia Pyfrom, Executive Director, to discuss Estella's Brilliant Bus STEAM Program. This initiative empowers students to solve real-world problems through creative and critical thinking.

Camden group hosts 2nd Annual STEAM summer Camp



Posted: Jun 24, 2025 7:26 PM CDT
Updated: Jun 24, 2025 7:28 PM CDT by **George McDonald**
The 2nd Annual STEAM summer camp is underway this week in Camden.

The camp exposes children to hands on learning activities that provide a solid STEAM foundation while making learning fun.

Camper Dea'one Mitchell loves STEAM — so she's really enjoying the STEAM summer camp.

"Mostly because it's interactive. I really love this camp. We do a lot of different things," said Mitchell.



The lessons Tuesday centered around the forces of gravity — and electromagnetism.

"Knowledge isn't really based off something being difficult. It's about something that is interesting," said Camp instructor Scott Tibbs.

Brilliant Bus Mobile Learning Labs:

The Brilliant Bus traveled to share STEAM learning with students. By bringing these opportunities directly to students who might otherwise have limited access, the Brilliant Bus is ensuring that every child has the chance to explore their potential and dream big.

Impact, Leadership, and Community

5,164



5,164 Volunteer Hours from the contributions of 24 volunteers include: mentorship, STEAM instruction and training, developing lesson plans, serving as chaperones, providing technology support, organizing field trips, assisting with fundraisers, handling secretarial and office tasks, managing transportation, participating in clean-up efforts, preparing food, and other responsibilities.

385K



385,000 lbs. of Food Distributed to support food-insecure families and students. Over 425 families receiving food twice a week. A new freezer added to the food pantry. 90 families provided with Thanksgiving turkey dinners and gift cards. 1,344 individuals received snacks and drinks for student and teacher incentive programs.

1,274



1,274 School & Program Supplies Distributed to youth includes drones, new computers, tablets, backpacks, lifejackets, hardhats, safety glasses, safety gloves, t-shirts, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, pens, markers, paper, paint, paint brushes, art supplies, STEAM notebooks, composition books, erasers, paper clips, sticky notes, tape, rulers, and folders, and garden supplies.

868



A Total of 868 Individuals Benefited from the Brilliant Bus transportation and various support services, which encompass: MATE Regional ROV Competition, IRL Science Festival, STEAM Field Trips, Camp Quest, Florida Band Jamborees, including individual and group solos, assemblies, and competitions at county and state levels, Kids' STEAM Summer Camp. Additional camps and programs.

1,405



1,405 Hours of Community Service Awarded to students. Love, Hope & Healing organization STEAM Program at Palm Beach State College (averaging 25 students per class). Underwater Robotics program at Crestwood Middle School and PBLC High School (averaging 10 students per session). Spring Camps, Summer Camps, and STEAM Camps, including Adobe & technology/SEL programs (averaging 25 students per session). PBLC Band Program serving an average of 174 students. Edmentum Reading Eggs and Fast Phonics at Pahokee Elementary. Incentive programs at Turning Points Academy and Indian Ridge School.

760



760 hours of Brilliant Minds Programs and Curriculum provided includes a diverse range of activities: STEAM education & Team Activities, Adobe and digital technology, SEL Mindfulness /Behavioral Health, Robotics, STEAM Learning Garden, Edmentum Reading Eggs, Reading Eggs Press, Fast Phonics, Music, Camps, Clinics, Workshops, Field trips, Educational Tours, and Competitions.

Note: If multiple services were provided, there may be a duplication in population stated.

TAKE A LOOK..



Estella's Brilliant Bus was featured at the Grand Opening of the Mack Bernard Neighborhood Center, hosted by Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation. Our Brilliant Minds students showcased their understanding of science by crafting lava lamps, planting seeds, and demonstrating drone flight to share their knowledge of conservation, agriculture, and technology.

Brilliant Support

ESTELLA'S BRILLIANT BUS IS SUPPORTED BY PHILANTHROPIC DONATIONS FROM CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS. ESTELLA'S BRILLIANT BUS IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION. ALL DONATIONS TO ESTELLA'S BRILLIANT BUS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

A special thanks to

The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.



The William R. Kenan, Jr.
Charitable Trust



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Black Belt Housing Authority



ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Estella's Brilliant Bus, a Class Act Learning Center, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Florida, dedicated to serving students grades K-12 since 2008. Our distinctive and engaging program aligns with Florida's B.E.S.T. (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking), is accredited by STEM.org, and teaches strong foundational skills along with supplementary learning opportunities year-round. This mission is powered by a dedicated team of educators, industry professionals, and volunteers, in partnership with local businesses, school districts, and various organizations.

Our award-winning initiative features the innovative Brilliant Bus mobile learning labs designed to bridge the digital and technological divide by offering digital literacy and STEAM learning. This initiative results in improved student outcomes, increased school engagement, a greater pursuit of secondary education, and the cultivation of productive citizens equipped with emotional intelligence and critical thinking skills to navigate evolving technology and real-world challenges.



Estella's Brilliant Bus A STEM.org Accredited Organization



Estella's Brilliant Bus is honored to be recognized as an accredited organization by STEM.org. Additionally, Estella's Brilliant Bus boasts of a talented team that includes certified STEM.org master instructors and trainers, scientists, engineers, computer programmers, professors, certified teachers, aides, mentors, paraprofessionals, and exceptional educators.



Estella's Brilliant Bus extends heartfelt gratitude to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce for offering valuable opportunities to our Brilliant Minds students.



The Brilliant Bus mobile learning labs provide STEAM learning through hands-on activities and interactive lessons, students gain access to resources and experiences that ignite their curiosity and inspire a lifelong love for learning.

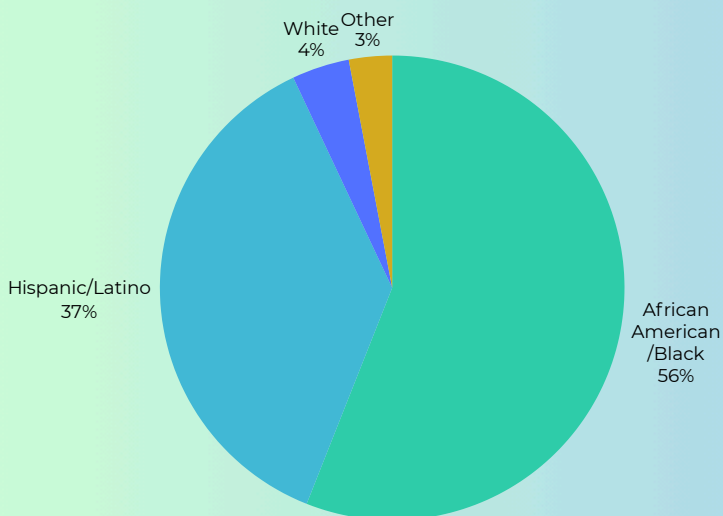
POPULATION SERVED

PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

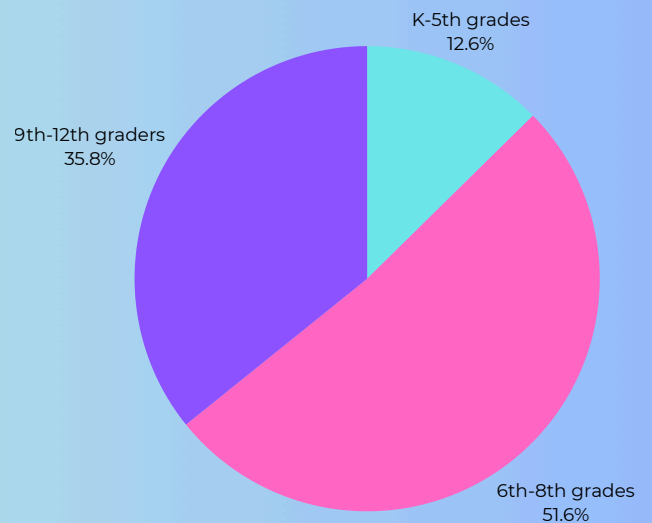
Here's what you need to know about the target group we serve:

- Our program primarily serves K-12th grade students from low socio-economic backgrounds who attend Title One schools in impoverished areas of South Florida. This group mainly comprised of African American (56%) and Hispanic (37%) students and others who require assistance with English, reading, and numeracy development. Additionally, nearly 40% of our households live in areas without access to the internet or lack computers and digital technology.
- Our program is also available to juvenile offenders, young adults, senior citizens, youth centers, schools, aftercare facilities, and other community organizations.
- On average, the Brilliant Bus serves over 2,500 children, families, and economically disadvantaged communities annually throughout Florida.
- We also offer Brilliant Seniors Program, which targets economically disadvantaged senior community members (60+ years old) in Palm Beach County areas. This outreach primarily focuses on seniors with an average household income of less than \$30,000 per year.

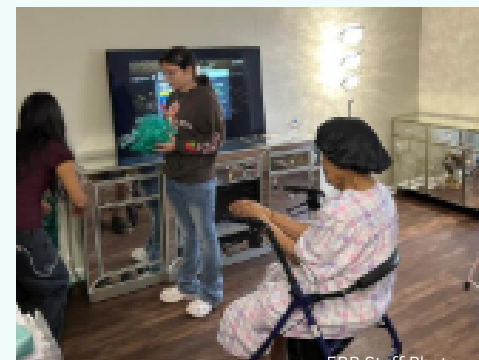
Ethnicity/Racial Group



Age Group Served

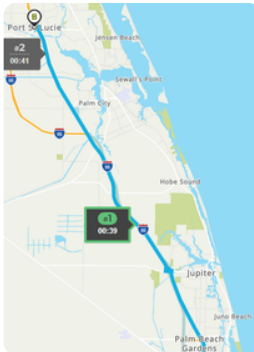
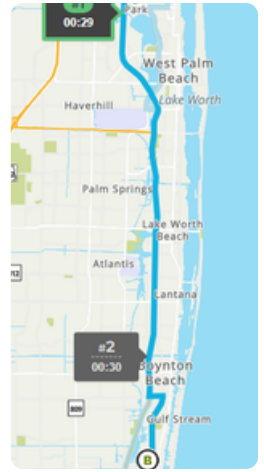
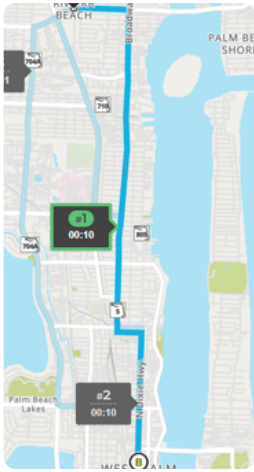



Students earn community service hours while assisting seniors and learning to become responsible citizens.

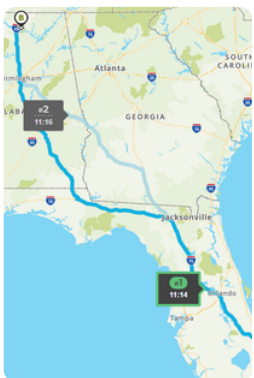
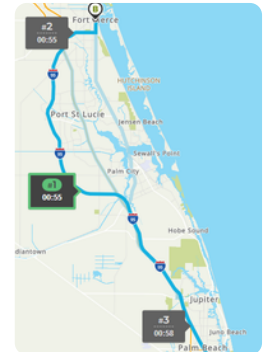




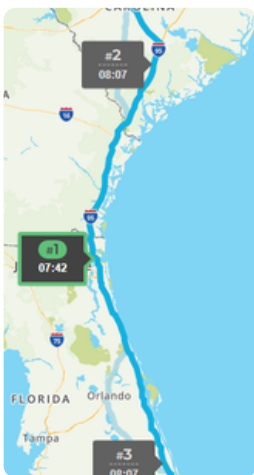
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS SERVED



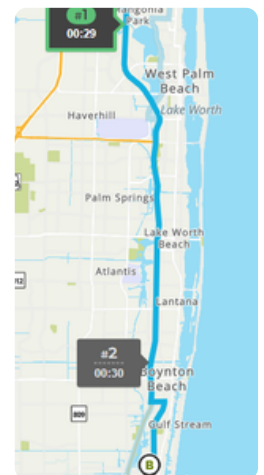
 **The Brilliant Bus offers an ideal solution for students who face challenges in attending programs because of their parents' work commitments, travel limitations, or financial constraints.**

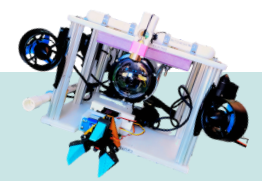


 **BRINGING KNOWLEDGE TO YOU**



Technology deserts are often found in lower-income neighborhoods that have a higher population of minority and immigrant residents. Millions of students are impacted by this issue. The Brilliant Bus mobile learning labs provide educational support to children and their families in rural, urban, and economically disadvantaged communities across Florida and beyond. This year alone the Brilliant Bus served communities in Palm Beach County such as Pahokee, Belle Glade, West Palm Beach, Lake Park, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Riviera Beach, as well as other locations in Clewiston, Tallahassee, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, South Bay, and Greenacres. Additionally, students were served in Alabama cities: Camden and surrounding Black Belt areas, Clanton, Birmingham, and Verbena.





OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Join us for the MATE ROV Regional Competition!
 Hosted by USF's Florida Institute of Oceanography
May 3rd, 2025 | 9 AM - 2 PM
 University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to showcase your ROV skills and be part of an amazing community!

Classes: SCOUT and RANGER
 Exciting Challenges: Test your underwater ROV skills
 Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers, mentors, and industry professionals
 Awards and Recognition: Compete for top honors and advance to the int'l competition

Registration Information, found at m...
 Coach & Team Registration: f...
 Student & Mentor Registration: ...
 Contact: Regional Coordinator: Seth Baklo



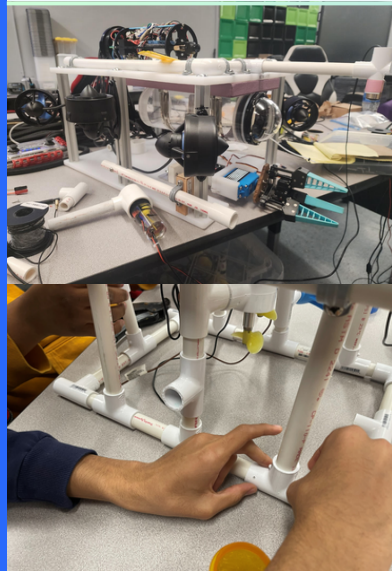
ESTELLA'S BRILLIANT MINDS UNDERWATER ROBOTICS TEAM

 Ayden Smith - Senior President/Electrical Engineer Systems Engineer/Pilot Aspiring Career - Robotic Engineering	 Neicka Fene - Senior CEO/Structural Engineer Co-Pilot Aspiring Career - Mechanical Engineering
 Jesla Bouget - Senior Chief Scientist Hydraulics Aspiring Career - Radiologist	 Nedjee Fene - Senior Tether Logistics Researcher Aspiring Career - Pharmacist
 Robert Finney - Senior Safety Officer Tether Logistics Aspiring Career - Pre - Vet	 Quincy Rawls - Senior Special Projects (CTD, GO-BGC) Hydraulics Aspiring Career - Mechanical Engineer
 Dena-Marie Kerr - Senior CFO Tether Logistics Aspiring Career - Aerospace Engineer	 Roodline Bouget- Senior Human Resources Aspiring Career - Mechanical Engineer

Celebrating Year 4 of Successful Robotics Training Program!

Underwater Robotics

Brilliant Bus Underwater Robotics program, offers students the chance to learn and creatively apply STEAM skills to address real-world challenges. This program enhances their critical thinking, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and innovation, equipping them for the Blue Economy Workforce. Each year, our Brilliant Minds students showcase their abilities by participating in the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Remote Operational Vehicle (ROV) Regional Competition. Our Brilliant Team won first place for their Marketing Display at the 2026 Competition Ranger Class, FL Regional University of South Florida, Tampa. Additionally, our students received scholarships, and all team members will be attending college in STEM fields! Programs like these highlights how Estella's Brilliant Bus ignites children's imaginations, fosters a love for learning, and prepares our youth for future success!



THANK YOU!

Palm Beach Lakes Community High School
 West Palm Beach, FL USA

AEJ Marines

Palm Beach Lakes Community High School
 West Palm Beach, Florida

ROV Codon - named after the White Shark (Hemiodontodon)

JOHNSON SEA, INC.

Palm Beach Lakes Community High School
 West Palm Beach, FL USA

"Johnson Sea, Inc. is dedicated to the production of effective and innovative solutions to the issues the modern marine environment faces."

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS



KIDS STEAM Summer Camp 2025!

At the KIDS STEAM Summer Camp our Brilliant Bus students explored various topics, including magnetism, solar energy, weather patterns, seasons, erosion, light, temperature, flight, and both physical and chemical reactions. We were also featured on WAKA, Channel 8 NEWS. **We extend our gratitude to WAKA, Channel 8 NEWS, for featuring our KIDS STEAM Summer Camp once again!**



Science



Technology



Art



Engineering



Mathematics

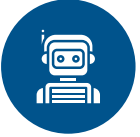
OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Indian Ridge School



Estella Brilliant Bus assisted with extra-curricular programming at Indian Ridge School, including STEAM Night, student behavior incentives, milestone events such as “Moving Up” ceremonies and Honor Roll breakfasts and teacher support. Due to these and other supportive programs Indian Ridge School received a COMMENDABLE Rating!

Crestwood Middle School



Estella’s Brilliant Bus provided Crestwood Middle School underwater robotics to boost student engagement in STEAM education, contributing to an interactive and exciting learning experience.

Turning Points Academy



Estella’s Brilliant Bus provided support to Turning Points Academy’s Last Chance Behavioral Program. This initiative strengthens Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs.

Palm Beach Lakes Community High School



Estella’s Brilliant Bus is thrilled to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Underwater Robotics program at PBLC High School. The student teams have experienced outstanding success, securing first place for their marketing display, and all graduating seniors are now headed to college! Additionally, this marks the second year that Estella’s Brilliant Bus has proudly supported the PBLC Marching Band program.

Pahokee Elementary School



Estella’s Brilliant Bus is dedicated to supporting teachers and parents at Pahokee Elementary School by supplying backpacks and school supplies for students.

STUDENTS THRIVE WITH HANDS-ON STEAM LEARNING



Through a variety of engaging activities, students gain practical skills and confidence that extend beyond the classroom.



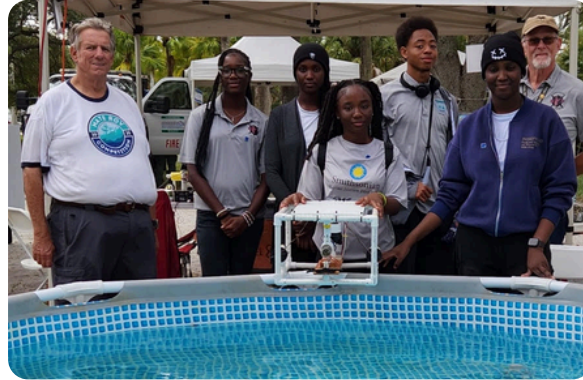
Literacy plays a crucial role in empowering our students. We urge them to OPEN A BOOK!



Through our programs, we aim to ignite a passion for STEAM subjects, helping students to build a strong foundation in these essential areas.

STEAM PROGRAMS

Inspiring Curiosity, Building Skills, Creating Brighter Futures



Estella's Brilliant Bus was featured at the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival, where our Brilliant Minds students celebrated science, nature and community spirit. Our students shared their expertise in engineering, technology, and the arts.



Canva, Adobe & Mindfulness

Students explore innovative concepts and the functionalities of digital tools through the use of Adobe Illustrator and/or Canva applications to develop graphic skills and fostering mindfulness in our contemporary world. In the art and design industry, proficiency in software such as Adobe Illustrator applications is practically essential. Programs develop digitally savvy students, as well as keeping our students safe online by teaching digital safety.



Social & Emotional Learning

Development of social and emotional skills, as well as positive attitudes, is essential in character education and "development of the whole child". Some of the skills students will be learning: Being My Best Self, Being Resilient, Caring for Each Other, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, and Using Technology Responsibly.



The Brilliant STEAM Learning Garden

Designed to promote an exciting multisensory learning experience, which is especially valuable for students to develop a strong foundation in basic STEAM concepts such as Earth Sciences.



Drones & Robotics

This is a remarkable educational tool that fosters critical skills in problem-solving, technology, engineering, and teamwork, all while captivating students through hands-on learning. Drones and robotics serve as fantastic means to keep children both engaged in their studies and thrilled to learn.

STEAM PROGRAMS

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Students are instructed by Florida Certified teachers and aides/paraprofessionals, and educators who are already trained to unpack, teach, and intervene when students struggle with standards.
- Instructors are STEM/STEAM and AVID certified/trained as well as scientists, business leaders, and other professionals.
- Online programs to track/monitor/reward students' age/grade level progress towards academic and behavioral goals.
- STEAM e-Learning to monitor children's progress through student database programs: Edmentum, STEM.org, and Thrively.
- Partnerships and collaborations with Microsoft, Smithsonian Marine Station Ft. Pierce, MATE ROV Competition/Marine Technical Society (MTS), zSpace, EON Reality, Cisco NETWORKING Inc., STEMNASIUM, Biz Kidz, and Nearpod, and many more to engage students with the latest STEAM learning.
- Our external partners that fuel noteworthy and unique programs include, Office Depot, Home Depot, Comcast, Verizon, Staples, the Palm Beach County School District, Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation, Boys & Girls Club, Palm Beach County Food Bank, Healthier Glades, UPMI STEAM, HBCU and State Technical Colleges, and more. Partnerships provide opportunities to educate K-12th grade students, in-kind gifts, equipment, software, and equipment maintenance. Additionally, we are supported by many volunteers with expertise in such areas as drones, robotics, coding, app development, software, and computer programming.

CURRICULUM DELIVERY ASSESSMENT

- Aligned to State of Florida's Standards.
- Curriculum adopts and aligns with the Florida State Standards in all academic subjects: Mathematics, Science, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Computer Education, Physical/Health Education, Career Technical Education, including Special Needs and English Language Learners.
- Distinct educational program with key advantages including:
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).
 - Enhancing student's basic skills through practical application.
 - Bridging the gap between student academic weaknesses and tactile abilities.
 - Embedded tutoring and acceleration through individualized online programming.
 - Career preparation embedded throughout the curriculum(s).
 - Web/Cloud based, direct teaching, blended and cooperative learning environments for all students with individualized learning programs.
 - Learning interventions include remedial and tutorial, designed to increase student achievement skills.



Estella's Brilliant Bus was featured at the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival, where our Brilliant Minds students proudly demonstrated their expertise in robotics.



Brilliant Minds students unveil their vision boards, aiming for successful futures and shooting for the stars!

BUILDING BRILLIANT MINDS INITIATIVE



In robotic competitions, our students gain valuable experience in teamwork while preparing for a collaborative work environment.

STEAM LEARNING IN ACTION



Building Brilliant Minds Initiative serves as a bridge to address the digital and technological divides, as well as STEAM learning opportunities. **We create pathways** to knowledge and wellness, nurturing successful futures for empowered students and strong communities.



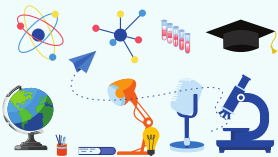
Kids STEAM Camps



Students learn engineering and tech.



- 1). Provides STEAM education with access to digital and technological resources.
- 2). Ensures high retention rates and consistent follow-up with Brilliant Minds students.
- 3). Prepares students for higher education, STEAM careers, and a brilliant future!
- 4). The Building Brilliant Minds Initiative addresses a critical educational gap identified after summer and school breaks.
- 5). Brilliant Bus mobile learning labs promote program sustainability and employ innovative methods to help students excel, equipping them with the necessary tools to lead, thrive, and serve.
- 6). It positively impacts communities, as they see the Brilliant Bus traveling and serving in their neighborhoods! Exciting developments are ahead—and we're just getting started!
- 7). Fosters a love of creating and learning by allowing students to design, build, and innovate in ways that engage both their minds and their imaginations.



STEM employment is projected to grow by 8.1 percent from 2024 to 2034. In comparison, employment in non-STEM occupations is projected to grow 2.7 percent over this period. The median wage for STEM occupations (\$103,580) was more than twice the median wage for non-STEM occupations (\$48,000) in 2024. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Students are offered field trips designed to enrich their lives and inspire pathways to success.



Students are given the superpower to unleash their curiosity!



Brilliant STEAM Learning Garden activities connects students with earth science..



Building Brilliant Futures Student Resource Day is a chance for students and parents to envision and plan for their futures.

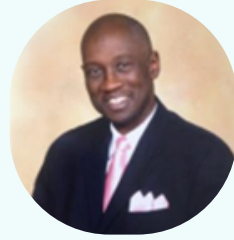
BRILLIANT BUS TEAM SPOTLIGHT



Continuing Her Mother's Legacy, **Mia Pyfrom, Executive Director**, and accomplished Educator has been an educator for over two decades, serving as a District Teacher, Educational Psychologist, and Consultant, as well as a Registered Behavior Technician. Her areas of expertise include Special Education, Psychology, Crisis Intervention, Behavior Management & Modification, Parental Engagement & Training, and PLC Facilitation. Mia is also skilled in curriculum development and delivery, specializing in English Language Arts (Language, Writing, Reading Comprehension), ESL, and ESE.



Willie Pyfrom (pictured here with his late wife, Estella Pyfrom). **Willie Pyfrom, Estella's Brilliant Bus Co-Founder**, is a 54-year veteran educator of the School District of Palm Beach County. Over the years, he has mentored and taught countless students, many of whom have gone on to become university presidents, politicians, attorneys, and celebrities, who personally thank him for his service and the positive impact he has had on their lives.



C. Ron Allen, Chair and co-Executive Director. A well-regarded newsman and award-winning journalist with an impressive track record. He currently serves as President and CEO of CRA Media Group, the parent company of the Delray Beach Tribune. Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and inducted into the Black Journalists Hall of Fame, C.Ron Allen has spent 35 years mentoring youth as the founder and president of KOP Mentoring Network.



Natalie Wells-Tibbs, Corporate Operations Officer, STEM.org certified master instructor & trainer with 30 years of corporate experience, worked 12 years as a corporate consultant with Morris S. Getzels Law Office before focusing fulltime as a Corporate Officer with nonprofits. As a Chaplain she has been instrumental in facilitating prison reform educational programs and publications for at-risk youth, juvenile offenders, ex-offenders, and prisoners at UPMI World Headquarters.



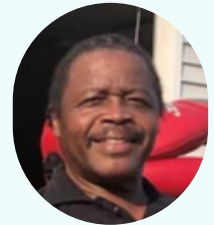
Dr. Kenneth Sessions, Board of Directors Member. An EMBA, MPA, Professor, Board Member, Microsoft, Cisco, IBTA, ESL, Siebel CRM and certified STEM.org master instructor, and Founder of Total Tech Experience.



Woody (William D.) Lee, Smithsonian Robotics, a Research/100 Ton USCG Captain with Smithsonian Marine Station, Ft. Pierce (Ret.). He provides over 4 decades of experience in science, engineering and technology.



Nadia Hardin, Senior Accountant/Business Administrator with over 16 years of experience in accounting and business administration, working with nonprofits. Nadia brings a wealth of expertise to the Brilliant Bus team.



Gene Pyfrom, Board of Directors Member. Retired veteran, educator and board member believes that upholding his mother's legacy is a crucial undertaking in the communities the Estella's Brilliant Bus serve.



Chris Sedlacek, Ph.D., AICE Marine Science and Biotechnology Teacher, Palm Beach Lakes community High School.



Michael Marrero, Esports Coach and Esports Teacher, Palm Beach Lakes Community High School.



Gail Stiebel-Douma, MPH An award-winning science teacher, curriculum writer, secondary science educator, and Science Fair Coordinator.



Julius Edwards Esports Coordinator/ Head Coach Digital Design Teacher Palm Beach Lakes High School.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Building Brilliant Minds Initiative combats the summer and STEAM educational slide with Estella's Brilliant Bus mobile learning labs and programs.

- To prevent the slide in education, afterschool, in-school enrichment, tutoring and summer programs are crucial. Estella's Brilliant Bus Mobile Labs offers K-12th graders hands-on STEAM learning and social-emotional activities in an enjoyable environment.
- Our dedicated team of Florida Certified teachers, aides/paras, STEM.org certified instructors, trainers, educators and skilled volunteers provide excellent guidance and instruction to unpack, teach, and guide the students.
- Students hone their problem-solving skills through engaging open-ended experiences while simultaneously becoming more self-aware and reflective.
- Our education team and partners offer exciting research-based, hands-on activities aimed at enriching the learning experiences of our students. These activities also address the summer and STEAM educational slide by helping them overcome individual learning gaps like reading and math skills.
- Estella's Brilliant Bus program is designed to inspire and empower underserved and under-resourced children with STEAM and digital technology opportunities outside of the traditional classroom. By empowering students, they can realize their potential and strive towards their goals. As Mia Pyfrom, Executive Director, states, *"It just takes one 'spark' of interest for kids to see that what they may have felt was out of reach is something they can strive for!"*

Building Brilliant Minds Initiative: Encouraging STEAM Proficiency in K-12th Grade Students:

This initiative was created to introduce K-12th grade students to STEAM learning and activities, focusing on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics to explore complex questions, investigate global issues, and develop solutions for real-world problems. This initiative emphasizes the importance of teaching and **reinforcing STEM/STEAM subjects earlier** in a student's school experience. Unfortunately, many students do not have access to the resources and opportunities they need to prepare for STEAM futures, such as limited access to digital technology, computer science courses and information technology and science laboratories.

We recognize the importance of educating students in STEAM subjects. Building Brilliant Minds initiative prepares students to excel in STEAM fields and succeed in 21st century careers as leaders and innovators. The goal is to ignite passion and encourage a **focus on STEAM subjects in elementary, middle, and high school settings.**

The national (and Florida) mandate to improve student access to and competence in STEM subjects establishes the educational need for more focus on these subjects earlier in a student's STEAM experience. However, despite Palm Beach students' academic improvements and in some instances outperforming similar districts statewide, their FCAT and FSA results in science and mathematics have remained steady over the years from 2020 to 2024, **but at the lowest levels of the achievement spectrum.**

This initiative is **designed to respond to the Florida mandate** to strengthen students learning in required academic standards and to provide low-achieving students with the platform they need to get on track for college and career readiness in high school. The program provides underserved students with a high-quality learning experience rooted in STEAM subjects with the support of experts in these fields. Students who participate elevate their depth of knowledge in STEAM subjects and **perform better in school.**

This initiative will capitalize on students' inherent fascination with cell phones, tablets, laptops, and other technology to connect students to the wonders of learning and solving problems. Our educational program is undergirded by the Busy Bodies Homework and Tutoring Help, which implements the Brilliant Learners System developed from research findings to **jump-start students' literacy and accelerate their achievement.**

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The transformative impact of Estella's Brilliant Bus extends well beyond academic success.

Students gain confidence, critical thinking skills, and a curiosity that promotes lifelong learning and emotional well-being. The effectiveness of this hands-on learning approach is evident by our outcomes. Estella's Brilliant Bus partnership with the Indian Ridge School Incentive program for students and teachers resulting in a remarkable achievement. Our initiatives consistently demonstrate a positive impact on students, evidenced by high retention rates. Our students are remaining in school, and we are witnessing significant improvements in their academic progress.

Brilliant Bus programs effectively address the educational decline identified after summer and school breaks.

Students are immersed in subjects such as early learning, reading comprehension, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), and our integrated STEAM and digital technology programs which create thriving learning environments. For example, the Brilliant Bus Arts program supports Palm Beach Lakes Community High School band students by providing opportunities to practice, participate, and perform in music programs and competitions, greatly enhancing their access to valuable learning experiences. Students who participate in our programs return to school with a spark and eager to learn and grow. In one partnership with the Palm Beach County School District, over 90% of more than 500 students participating in the Estella's Brilliant Bus program improved their standings from below grade level to meeting or exceeding the standards necessary to advance to the next grade.

In 2026, technology deserts still exist, with millions of students still lacking access to computers or the internet. This issue significantly impacts countless learners. The Brilliant Bus innovative mobile learning labs serve as a bridge to close the digital divide, providing essential educational support and technological resources to children. Brilliant Mind students elevate their depth of knowledge in STEAM subjects and perform better in school.



Students benefit from in-depth support throughout various learning programs and activities, such as afterschool initiatives, tutoring sessions, STEAM camps, field trips, and in-school events, all aimed at shaping their pathways to successful futures.

METHOD AND STRATEGY

Estella's Brilliant Bus creates lifelong success for its participants through an integrated approach. Our dedicated team, composed of Florida certified teachers, aides/ paraprofessionals, STEM.org certified instructors, professors, trainers, educators, scientists, engineers, business leaders, and skilled volunteers provide exceptional guidance and instruction to unpack, teach, and nurture our Brilliant Mind youth. Additionally, Estella's Brilliant Bus partners with organizations such as Microsoft, Lockheed Martin, Smithsonian Marine Station Ft. Pierce, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, KOP Mentoring Network, Palm Beach School District, Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Parks & Receptions, Edmentum, STEM.org, and the MATE ROV / Marine Technical Society, among others, to bring expertise and program power! Our students engage in hands-on, real-world learning covering a diverse range of STEAM topics, including marine biology, coding, music, financial literacy, robotics, health, digital technology, and much more. These educational resources empower youth to excel both academically and in their future endeavors. Our collaborative and innovative instructional methods ensure that our impact endures for years to come!



Importance of Supplementary and Afterschool Programs

The University of California research spanning twenty-six (26) years documented the positive effects of supplementary and afterschool programs on students of all ages, showing that participants experience lifelong benefits. These programs influence educational, health, and career outcomes, leading to higher graduation rates, increased pursuit of higher education, better income potential, and greater community engagement.

1. Organized Afterschool Activities as a Developmental Context for Children and Adolescents," a longitudinal study led by Dr. Deborah Vandell of the University of California, Irvine. <https://50stateafterschoolnetworks.org/research-library/>



Estella's Brilliant Bus collaborated with Love, Hope & Healing organization to offer STEAM learning opportunities at Palm Beach State University.

METHOD AND STRATEGY

Engaging Students

We take immense pride in our program successes, proudly maintaining a 98% retention rate for our student programming! Here are three educational strategies that empower our students to thrive:



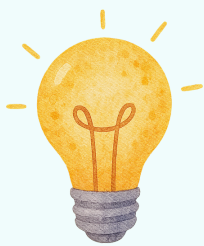
First: Literacy

Reading is a top priority for both our students and the adults we support. Literacy is fundamental to all areas of study, and students must develop fluency to reach their future aspirations.



Second: Well-Being

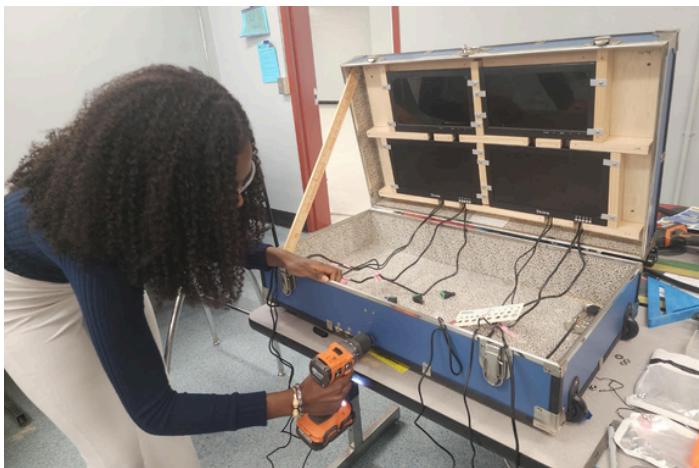
Our focus is on the well-being of students, families, and educators. Estella's Brilliant Bus collaborates with schools and agencies to enhance incentive programs for teachers, parents, and students, as well as provide resources for families facing food insecurity and other essential needs. We partner with organizations to deliver real-life skills and experiences, covering everything from education and bridging the digital and technological divide to online safety workshops, Social & Emotional Learning (SEL), and STEAM education.



Third: Relevance and Excitement

Education should be both relevant and exciting, motivating students to learn more. Engaging, experiential, and hands-on learning is essential, as engagement plays a critical role in student success. Every student deserves opportunities and essential skill sets, including critical thinking, problem-solving, resilience, and relationship-building. Estella's Brilliant Bus believes that every student should have access to these vital skills to transform their educational experience.

Students' successes lead to pursuit of higher education, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers and empowered adults.



July 7, 2025



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(561) 985-1889

Dr. Carla Easter
Broh-Kahn Weil Director of Education
Smithsonian National Museum of
Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Easter,

On behalf of Estella's Brilliant Bus, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce, Florida, for the opportunity to collaborate with Woody (William D.) Lee, Research/100 Ton USCG Captain, on the vital youth initiative and community engagement STEM project. With four decades of experience in science, engineering, and technology, Woody has played a crucial role in our Underwater Robotics program at Palm Beach Lakes Community High School, West Palm Beach, Florida, resulting in three years of successful programming and outcomes. We proudly celebrate the completion of the third edition of Estella's Brilliant Bus Educator Guide & Remote Operational Vehicle (ROV) Curriculum and commend our student teams for achieving second place for their engineering poster at the MATE ROV Regional Competition. This impactful initiative has led to Lockheed Martin's support for our program, with Pahokee Middle School, KOP Mentoring Group, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County expressing interest to offer this program to their students!

I have had the privilege of working closely with Woody, and I am consistently impressed by his exceptional skills, dedication, and leadership in delivering this remarkable STEM instructional program, which is essential for our students to thrive in today's world. Woody is an invaluable asset to our successful programming, and his contributions have significantly impacted our outreach and achievements. His expertise in robotics and his ability to convey these skills to our students, enabling them to understand and excel, is truly remarkable. Woody possesses a deep understanding of both traditional techniques and innovative methods to engage and empower our students through hands-on, real-world learning experiences. His consistency is outstanding, and the results reflect his dedication to empowering the next generation of STEM leaders.

We are thrilled to share that we have achieved an impressive retention rate of 98% among students and 100% among participating teachers and schools. As a result of this initiative, many of our students (some of whom are first time college students in their families) are now pursuing STEM majors to advance towards careers in fields such as engineering, computer science, and environmental science.

As this program expands, we are eager to incorporate it into our annual STEM camps. The impact of this initiative has been profound, and we look forward to many more years of success, thanks to Woody's commitment to today's youth!

Sincerely,

Natalie Wells-Tibbs, COO

cc: EBB Board of Directors



Natalie Wells-Tibbs, COO



State of Florida

Department of State

I certify from the records of this office that ESTELLA'S BRILLIANT BUS, A CLASS ACT LEARNING CENTER, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on January 6, 2006, effective January 1, 2006.


The document number of this corporation is N06000000140.

I further certify that said corporation has paid all fees due this office through December 31, 2026, that its most recent annual report/uniform business report was filed on March 10, 2026, and that its status is active.

I further certify that said corporation has not filed Articles of Dissolution.

*Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of Florida
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Tenth day of March, 2026*




Secretary of State

Tracking Number: 0141752375CC

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WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



Thank you to our community and partners whose support helps us continue impacting the lives of our students and their families

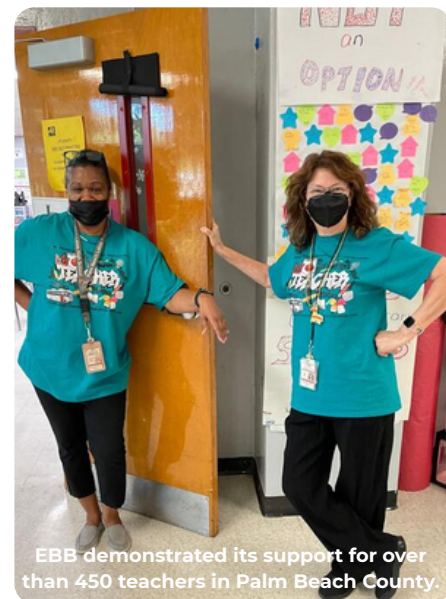


The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust

A special thank you for your support in renovating our buses, which makes it possible for us to continue impacting the lives of our students!



Thank you to the KOP Mentoring Network for partnering with us to bring STEAM camps impacting lives of our students!



Thank You



A special thank you to our valued donors and partners: The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, Microsoft, The Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Edmentum, MATE ROV / Marine Technology Society (MTS), STEM.org, Quantum Foundation, KOP Mentoring Network, and many others. Your support strengthens our mission and helps provide the resources, programs, and pathways our youth needs to learn, grow, and thrive.

We are deeply grateful to the many supporters who make this work possible. Your generosity, partnership, and commitment allow us to continue advancing Estella Pyfrom's meaningful legacy of bridging the digital and technology divide while fostering STEAM education, community wellness, and greater opportunity for the students and families we serve.

To our volunteers, teachers, community partners, Board of Directors, staff, and every individual who has given their time, resources, expertise, and heart to Estella's Brilliant Bus, thank you! Because of you, we are able to continue carrying this legacy forward and creating a lasting impact on our community.



Mia Pyfrom, Executive Director (picture on the right), stands proudly with a Brilliant Minds student who is reaching for new heights!

Estella's
BRILLIANTBUS



Estella@brilliantbus.org



www.estellasbrilliantbus.org



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