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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BMS donates \$23,087 to the LTEF for Mobile Makerspaces!**

In 2020, Bristol Myers Squibb funded **S.E.E. STEM, B.E. STEM** (Strengthening Equitable Experiences in **STEM, Building Entries into STEM**), a grant through the Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF) that brought creative STEM materials into a newly renovated library and media center at Slackwood Elementary. One of the items in the grant was a fully stocked STEM cart. These STEM carts are essentially mobile makerspaces with 35 bins filled with construction materials, circuits, robotics, project-based design materials and low-tech items like cardboard, duct tape, string and glue. These tools, crafting materials, and building materials allow for limitless innovation. Karen Faiman, Executive Director of the LTEF stated, “this educational cart has been a hit with both staff and students at Slackwood and is one of the most popular parts of the newly removed STEAM Center.”

There are three additional elementary schools in Lawrence Township: Ben Franklin Elementary; Lawrence Elementary; and Eldridge Park School. Faiman reports that once an initiative is proven successful at one school, the LTEF likes to see it expanded into other schools. Consequently, the LTEF recently secured \$23,087 in further funding through Bristol Myers Squibb to provide three additional STEM carts, one for each of the remaining three elementary schools. Each STEM Cart will provide students at these three elementary schools with many opportunities to generate creative ideas and strengthen their science, technology, engineering and math knowledge. Students will use the components to create a wide range of STEM projects, such as rubber band racer, electromagnet crane, hovercraft, weather station, and electronic circuits to name a few. Activities are aligned to Next Generation Science Standards and created to help students explore a variety of STEM and Engineering Design concepts.

Faiman stated, “for many of these students, it will be the first time they have ever had a chance to work with STEM materials and that is very exciting. The goal is to help engage, inspire and motivate every student to problem solve, while at the same time fueling their creativity and curiosity.”

**Photo of Grant Presentation:** (From Left to Right): Ross Kasun, Superintendent of Schools; Karen Faiman, Executive Director of the Lawrence Township Education Foundation; Patricia Hendricks Farmer, LTPS Board of Education President.