A Message from our Leadership

Geering Up has seen remarkable accomplishments across all our initiatives this past year. We surpassed our previous annual reach to empower and engage with youths through hands-on learning in 38 B.C. communities. We also connected with more teachers and parents to foster an ecosystem of support for youths.

Our programs introduced students to the wonders of engineering and science, and we have also provided them with the tools to **think critically, innovate and collaborate on solutions to real-world problems**.

None of our achievements would be possible without the hard work, passion, and dedication of everyone involved in Geering Up. From our driven volunteers to our staff who go above and beyond, we owe our excellence to our community. I would also like to extend our gratitude to our partners and funders whose shared commitments enable us to reach further and dream bigger.

As Geering Up looks to 2024, we have a clear roadmap ahead of us. We will continue breaking down barriers to STEM education. We will keep fostering a diverse community where every young person can see themself as an engineer, a scientist, a technologist, or a mathematician. To achieve these goals, we need your continued support and engagement. **Together, we can inspire a generation that will not just dream about the future but also build it.**

Andrew Jamison

Andrew Jamison | Senior Manager, Geering Up
2023 in Review: A Snapshot of Geering Up’s Reach

We connected with 29,782 teens & children in our programs

14,458 girls* across all programs
2,717 total sessions delivered
3,516 Indigenous youth reached
8,434 teachers in our programs
532 volunteers and mentors

187,626 face-to-face hours
38 communities reached
223 Black youth reached
187 bursaries awarded

*We use the words “girls” inclusively. All cis and trans girls, genderqueer and non-binary folks belong at and are welcome to attend our All Girls* programming.
A Year of Excellence and Growth

2023 was another exciting year full of growth and new horizons for Geering Up. Our community had its fair share of obstacles; from the summer fires that impacted many Kelowna families (including our UBC Okanagan team) to a busy office move to have our home base closer to where we deliver programs, we are grateful to have risen above it all to accomplish many goals in the last year.

**Actua Instructor Recognition Award**

Hot on the heels of our Actua Excellence Award for our work in 2022, one of our many dedicated instructors—Elisabelle Bizon—was presented with the 2023 Actua Instructor Recognition Award for her passion for STEM and her commitment to delivering effective programs to youths.

**IEEE Vice President’s Award**

We wrapped up our year in style with a visit to Washington, D.C. for an Awards Night hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Geering Up’s Andrew Jamison (Senior Manager) and Adam Cornford (Assistant Manager, Okanagan team) accepted the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB)’s 2023 Vice President’s Recognition Award from the EAB’s Vice President, Dr. Rabab Ward.

We are touched to have our efforts to inspire, empower, and shape the next generation of engineers, innovators and problem-solvers be recognized by IEEE.
Industry Partnerships

Geering Up’s success is made possible through our partnerships with industry leaders and trailblazers.

Our industry partners provide more than just a source of funding, and their team members often eagerly reach out to get involved in other ways. We appreciate all the time, effort, resources and insight that our industry partners have invested into Geering Up’s programming.

Thanks to their generosity, we’ve been able to:

• host exciting new events in addition to returning favourite event themes
• foster curiosity in youths through mentorships with subject area experts
• help youth see all the potential career paths they can pursue with a STEM education
Our Impact: a Word from our Community

"Thank you for an enlightening STEM workshop! It invigorated my teaching approach and provided valuable tools to inspire young minds. Grateful for the knowledge shared. [A] truly impactful experience!"

— Eva, Vancouver teacher

"From ZERO to HERO! I've attended a bunch of Geering Up professional development workshops for teachers, each with different themes, activities, and updates in topics. I started as a STEM beginner in West Vancouver, and now I've been invited as a guest speaker at ISABC and [a local radio station]. Huge thanks to Sophie and her team for all their help!"

— Eagle Chan, Vancouver teacher
“Thank you for this wonderful opportunity this summer. My goal each year is to incorporate more STEM and I never do it and I think that’s in part because I don’t believe in my abilities. This pro-d workshop shows that I can do it and it’s the process not the outcome that matters the most. Even without a designated Makerspace at our schools, we can use what we have and make it our own space even if temporary.”

— Vancouver teacher

“The [in-classroom] workshop was very well organized and the content was relevant to our learning outcomes. The presenters did an excellent job and kept the students engaged for the entire time!”

— Kelowna elementary school teacher

“My child loved this camp! He said everything about it from the camp leaders & volunteers to the manager of the group [were] wonderful...it was extremely well organized. I liked the fact when his friend who he signed up with was not there, the instructors thought of ways to not leave the student alone...I really loved that this camp was inclusive and the instructors and volunteers in this group took things very seriously and responsibly!”

— Elementary summer camp student’s parent

“Our daughter came home and said, ’I had an amazing day! Actually it was kind of like school, but WAY more fun!’
We appreciate your email because [you gave] us some jumping-off points to talk about her day. I’m going to ask her right now to talk about what the engineering design process is!”

— Summer camp student parent
“Thank you for being an awesome instructor for [my] summer camp. It was exciting to have you share your endless knowledge. I admire your passion and it inspired me to explore deeper into STEM!

Genuine passion goes a long way when chasing your dreams, and you definitely have it :) Kudos for all the science jokes and laughs. I hope to contact you again for more questions and advice on STEM. Keep being an awesome woman in STEM, cellular biology enthusiast, tech queen Geering Up instructor!”

— High school summer programs student

“[Your instructors] were amazing not only in teaching and sharing but also as guests and spending time with our kids. We’re so lucky to be teamed with UBC and Geering up. The people you’ve sent to us have enriched us and our community. Thank you for the opportunity, and we look forward to doing more camps together.”

— Indigenous STEM (InSTEM) community

“Your team was absolutely amazing! [We had] a couple hiccups, but nothing your team wasn’t equipped to handle! They were incredibly adaptive and we were so appreciative of their attentiveness and inclusivity with our participants. Our participants absolutely loved [the experience]! They raved about their sessions all week long. Thank you again for joining our teams last week. We are absolutely looking forward to working with Geering Up again in the future!”

— Canucks Autism Network camps coordinator
Our Roadmap: Focuses for 2024

Strengthening our commitment to Indigenous STEM (InSTEM)

- staying connected with the Indigenous communities with whom we’ve been working
- integrating Indigenous views and contributions to STEM in our collaborations with Indigenous schools
- empowering Indigenous youths to pursue STEM learning
- bringing land-based learning to communities
- working with Indigenous Elders, educators, and families to give Indigenous youth an exclusive look into STEM at UBC

Expanding our high school programming

- adapting the latest STEM innovations, technologies and topics so that students are exposed to relevant and cutting-edge knowledge
- increasing our reach and engagement to inspire more students
- encouraging high school students to volunteer with our STEM Leadership Program to gain job experience and familiarity with leadership, science communication and lab project work.
Paving Pathways in STEM

- building a strong foundation for critical thinking through teaching core STEM principals and skills (ex. the engineering design process) to programming for all grades
- introducing students to the wide range of STEM fields through hands-on, creative and explorative learning
- providing more opportunities for students to mentor with and learn from role models who are studying or working in STEM and STEM-adjacent fields.
- exposing youth of all ages to potential STEM pathways in post-secondary education and careers.
- inspiring youth—especially underrepresented youth and youth with fewer socioeconomic resources—so that they see themselves as future changemakers!
Our Path Forward

2025 will mark the 30th year since Geering Up was founded by UBC Engineering student Christine Yeung and Dr. Ian Gartshore. Our founders started with the seeds of an idea, of wanting more young students to get involved in engineering and science regardless of who they were, and they planted a legacy.

Although our branding has changed a few times and our reach—and team!—has grown exponentially since 1995, our mission and values remain the same.

We look to the past to remind us of our roots and of how far we’ve come. We look to the future to envision how we want to transform the world through providing barrier-free STEM education to our young leaders-in-training. Right now, we can’t wait to see what we will make of 2024.

So as we embark on this final year before heading into our third decade, we thank you for your support and generosity. Join us in 2025 to celebrate and continue this journey.

We do what we do because it makes an impact. We, and our supporters, invest in education and educators to show curious children that they belong in STEM. Geering Up transforms young minds and empowers students to wonder about the world around them, and we can’t wait to see how our youth will transform and innovate the future for the better.

Follow us on our journey as we GEER UP into 2025 and beyond.
Your support can make a difference. Join us in getting STEM education access to all youth.

Donate as an individual or organization at bit.ly/gu-support-us or through the QR code: