



**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Delta Beta Omega Chapter, Phoenix, AZ
AKARAMA Meeting Minutes
Teleconference
October 27, 2021**



Board Meeting Members in Attendance

President Shawn Gear, First Vice President Angela Johnson, Secretary DeSheania Martin, Treasurer Lisa Davis, Member Tracy Lewis, Member Rochonne Simmons, Member Eula Saxon Dean, Member Carla Gentles, Member Lavern Tarkington, Member Tonette Echols, Member Tetonia Blossom, Member Kamaria Saunders, and Member Maria Bailey Benson

Call to Order

Member Shawn Gear

6:03pm

Meditation

Member Eula Saxon

Galatians 5 and 13

Approval of Minutes

Member Shawn Gear

Member Carla Gentles moved that the June meeting minutes be approved as presented.
Seconded and passed by Member Eula Saxon Dean.

Report of the President

Member Shawn Gear

MISSING REPORT

Scholarship

Member Lavern Tarkington

12 students received care packages at their current address within various universities given to them by scholarship committee members. Committee stayed within budget.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Member Marie Bailey Benson

The Grant was renewed for Gila River Gaming. Starting in 2022-2023 programming year allocated amount is 48,623. The stem program served 60 kids this summer. Partnered with Rogers Ranch elementary school in which ½ students are Latino and 25% are black children.



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
OFFICE OF SPECIAL FUNDING

GRANT AGREEMENT

October 27, 2021

Maria Bailey Benson
Phoenix AkArama Foundation
P. O. Box 64971
Phoenix, AZ 85082

Congratulations on your recent grant award from the Gila River Indian Community State Shared Revenue Program. By accepting the grant, you are agreeing (1) to use grant funds in accordance with the proposed budget and purposes identified in the grant application, and (2) to submit annual/final and any other interim reports that the Gila River Indian Community requires, verifying that grant funds are expended for the purposes identified in the grant application. The desired reporting form will be sent to you via email.

AWARD DETAILS

Approval Date:	10/06/2021
Project Title:	Ultimate Technology Extra-Curricular Education Programs
Award Amount:	\$96,524.00
Grant Term:	2 Year(s): 10/06/2021 - 10/06/2023

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Due Date	Reporting Period	Submit Report to:
11/05/2022	10/06/2021 - 10/06/2022	cheryl.pablo@gric.nsn.us
11/05/2023	10/06/2022 - 10/06/2023	or Office of Special Funding P.O. Box 2172 Sacaton, AZ 85147

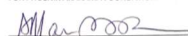
In the instance that the project is not complete after the last listed reporting date, additional reports may be requested. Requests for changes to the term of the grant or budget modifications must be presented in writing for concurrence by the Gila River Indian Community, Office of Special Funding.

Please sign below to acknowledge your understanding of the grant agreement and reporting requirements. Return a scanned copy of the signed letter to terri.amos@gric.nsn.us or send via USPS.

FOR GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY:


Cheryl Pablo
Program Administrator

FOR PHOENIX AKARAMA FOUNDATION:


Signature/Date
Title:

Post Office Box 2172 • Sacaton, Arizona 85147
Phone: 520-522-4698 • Fax: 520-522-4699

Organization Name: Phoenix AkArama Foundation

Project Name: The Ultimate Technology Camps

Award Date: 10/15/2018

Award Amount: \$31,145 per year for three years (\$93,435)

Request for Concurrence

Phoenix AkArama has provided programming and resources for over 900 students in between May and November of 2021. The original program expanded to address the additional academic needs of the community – literacy and college preparedness in addition to STEM. The programs still have not returned to traditional classroom settings are continuing to operate in a mostly virtual environment.

The of concurrence would allow applying \$2,700 left over from the programming year to purchase additional books for the students from South Pointe Elementary and Cesar Chavez Leadership academy.

Literacy-Book Club	Books for approximately 700 elementary school students at \$4 each.	\$2,700
Total		\$2,700

Organization Name: Phoenix AKArara Foundation

Project Name: The Ultimate Technology Camps

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RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL FUNDING

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APPROVED

Chupa 11/9/2021



Gila River Indian Community Grant Report

Organization Name: Phoenix AKArara Foundation

Project Name: Ultimate Technology Extra-Curricular Education Programs

Award Date: 10/15/2018

Award Amount: \$31,145 per year for three years (\$93,435)

Reporting Period: 2021

1. RESULTS/OUTCOMES:

- Describe overall progress made toward the projected outcomes stated in the grant application.

The SMCC Ultimate Technology Camp (UTC) was created to expose underrepresented minority and female students to educational opportunities and careers in science, math, engineering and technology (STEM). The ultimate goal of the program is to stimulate interest in STEM and increase the number of underrepresented minority and female students enrolling in STEM related courses - in both high school and college.

Summer 2021 was the 6th summer for the UTC and the second virtual summer for the program. The pandemic illuminated needs the UTC team didn't know existed. Although SMCC is centrally located and easily accessible to the community, there will always be a need to provide programming closer to home - whether in home (virtual activities) or through neighborhood schools.

Maria Bailey Benson approached Laveen and Roosevelt Elementary School Districts about hosting/embedding the UTC Virtual STEM Box program into the summer curriculum as extracurricular activity. Laveen very quickly responded and offered Rogers Ranch (the designated STEM school) as a pilot school for the program. The Rogers Ranch program was well received resulting in 43 rising 7th and 8th grades students enrolling. A total of 62 students were enrolled in the virtual program this past summer.

The UTC 2021 Virtual STEM Box was implemented using the program infrastructure established last summer. The written instructions for the activities were included in the boxes and supplemental videos were posted on the SMCC UTSC website page - listed below. The boxes contained two weeks of 60 - 90 minute STEM activities. The students were asked to upload/send photos of the completed projects to track participation and qualify for awards and prizes.

<https://www.instagram.com/ultimatetechcamp/>
<https://sites.google.com/southmountaincc.edu/ultimatetechcamp/projects?authuser=0>

The summer STEM program was well received and surfaced additional needs within the community. The transition from face-to-face learning to remote learning this spring posed a number of challenges for school systems, students, and parents. During the summer program it became evident that some of the students were losing their academic confidence and longed for additional enrichment and structure.

Post-pandemic life has normalized virtual options for almost everything. The Ultimate Technology Camp team (which is composed of educators) has elected to continue a standard virtual option for

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the summer program. Additionally, the team thought it would be beneficial to incorporate literacy and mental health as we continue to develop virtual content. As post-pandemic life continues to unfold we are continuing to discover new opportunities to serve students - and address additional educational needs.

The Black, Brown, and College Bound (BBCB) program is also experiencing growth in the virtual environment. The spring seminar was conducted virtually, March 6, 2021, with 117 registered participants - primarily from Phoenix Union High School District. The seminar addressed topics such as Virtual Learning Success, Covid Facts, Positive Self Expression, and the College Application Process - over 95% of the registrants were on the platform for the 152 minute session.

- b. Please provide the following demographic information for those served by this grant. Check the box on the far right for any information that is not applicable to the project.

Check here if not applicable:		
Total Number of clients served by this grant:	59 - Virtual STEM Camp 117 Black Brown and College Bound* demographics not collected 302 South Pointe Elementary School 434 Cesar Chavez Leadership Academy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genders by Age served:		
Age 0 - 18:	Female: See Below	Male: See Below
Age 19 - 54:	Female: <input type="checkbox"/>	Male: <input type="checkbox"/>
Age 55+:	Female: <input type="checkbox"/>	Male: <input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnicities served:	Virtual STEM Camp 32% Female 68% Male 29% Black 56% Hispanic 5% Native American 10% White Cesar Chavez Leadership Academy (Title I) 50% Female 50% Male 2% Black 96% Hispanic 1% White South Pointe Elementary School (Title I) 33% Female 67% Male 44% Black 47% Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	3% Native American 2% White 4% Multicultural	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geographical area(s) served:	South Mountain/Laveen areas	
Impact areas* (see examples below)	STEM Education, Literacy, Mental Wellbeing, College Application Process, Career and Technical Education, Communication Skills, Hands-On STEM, Independent Learning	

*Using primarily single words and separated by commas, please list 1 to 10 areas that your project strives to impact. With this information we hope to better examine how GRIC Grant funds are being utilized.

- c. What difference has this program or project made in your community or for the population you are serving? Please discuss evidence of this effect (e.g. client satisfaction survey results, pre- and post-test results, community indicators, outcomes, etc.) If this grant was for a one-time purchase describe how the purchase has addressed the needs/problems described in the grant application.

Sixty-two Virtual STEM activity boxes were distributed to 62 students. There were 59 active participants in the program - of which 33 submitted exit surveys. Those who took the survey gave the program 4.2/5 stars for enjoyment and 39% of those surveyed said they are "More" interested in "doing something" related to STEM as a career. The virtual program eliminates transportation issues and allows for a more diverse pool of students - there were less girls in the program again this year (39% vs. 41%); however, the program is very ethnically diverse - 95% of the participants for the virtual STEM camp identify as Black, Hispanic, or Native American.

The partnership with Laveen Elementary School District and the extracurricular STEM program at Rogers Ranch provided a pathway for the UTC to engage more students. The program provided supplement resources and curriculum for the teachers and innovative learning opportunities for students transitioning back into the classroom. We found that parents and students are much more likely to enroll in programs that are hosted at their neighborhood school or through their school district. The UTC is working to host programs on four Laveen and Roosevelt campuses summer 2022.

The pilot program at Cesar Chavez with Dr. Ramona Saunders has led to the development of a mobile programming activity using Spheros (a small programmable sphere that responds to code executed through an iOS device). Spheros can be used in person or in a virtual environment. The South Pointe Elementary program with Dr. Eula Dean is morphing into a reading program that incorporates virtual volunteers to read along with the students.

The Black Brown College College Bound initiative continues to provide value information and resources to help college bound students navigate the application process during Covid. The spring workshops topics included strategies for success in virtual learning, dispelling myths about Covid, and resources to support positive self expression. Each of the participants received a student

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success care package containing a Black, Brown, and College Bound Success t-shirt, journal, hand sanitizer,

Concerns over pandemic related education gaps and the impact on BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) students persist. Access to high speed internet, STEM education, literacy, and mental health and well-being are all still major concerns. The UTC team knows that integrating literacy and mental health into its programs is key to developing "the whole child" educationally and will continue to address these needs in the future.

d. Were there any unanticipated results, either positive or negative, that you have not already described above? If yes, please describe.

Summer 2021 was the second summer of virtual camp. The summer Covid-19 surge made it extremely difficult to conduct in person camp again for the second year in a row. The South Mountain Community College campus was not completely open over the summer, and it was even more challenging to find faculty willing to work with children in person - given that most children had been out of structured learning environments for almost a year and unvaccinated. Despite these setbacks, the 2021 virtual summer program grew. The UTSC team partnered with Rogers Ranch School, a Title I, STEM themed school in the Laveen Elementary School District, to integrate the virtual camp curriculum as an extracurricular activity for summer school students.

The virtual program was limited by the number of LEGO units that could be obtained. There has been an unprecedented demand for LEGO during the pandemic and availability has been extremely limited. The capacity of the program is dependent on the availability of LEGO - 62 units. Additionally, a number of other items have been in short supply as a result of the pandemic supply chain issues. The team has had to seek alternatives for some activities because it has been so difficult to obtain supplies.

The technology, literacy, and college bound programs continue to evolve post-pandemic. This year we served more students than ever before and are excited about expanding our programs once again. The teams are developing programs and resources to engage students throughout the year, and are very confident that we can do more in 2022.

The return to classrooms in the summer and fall of 2021 has been challenging. The Rogers Ranch summer school experienced high levels of absenteeism due to Covid-19. Programs and events originally planned to execute this fall have been delayed because of classroom closures and Covid-19 related concerns as well. The team has taken the opportunity to create supplemental activities that will both engage students in independent learning and support teachers with curriculum, i.e., the literacy program with virtual read alongs.

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e) If applicable, what plans do you have to communicate your outcomes or lessons learned with others?

- Maria Benson continues to serve on the SciTech Institute Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee participating and sharing information about the Ultimate Technology Camps through the SciTech Institute's STEM Community Ecosystem.

- One of the primary challenges with the Rogers Ranch program was that the teachers did not administer the box activities as prescribed. The activities were designed to be 60 to 90 minutes in length and the summer school teachers were only allowing the students 30 minutes to complete them. Partnering with schools is strategically the best approach: expanding the Ultimate Technology programs. However, for future embedded programs, the UTC team will train teachers (providing a small stipend for the training) and assign an SMCC UTC intern/camp instructor to each classroom participating in the program.

The goal for summer 2022 is to host four concurrent summer programs on four elementary/middle school campuses. We are launching a pilot four week STEM afterschool program at South Pointe Elementary School (SPES) in January 2022. Two SMCC students (majoring in early childhood education - one former UTC student) will be trained to conduct the activities and will work with a group of 25 South Pointe Elementary School (SPES) students. With a goal of training four more students and possibly six elementary and/or middle school teachers the UTC team is planning to host hands-on STEM programs at three more schools in the South Phoenix area.

- Several schools still aren't allowing students to access the library to check out books (and have suspended Scholastic book fairs). The South Pointe Elementary School literacy program is expanding to include the neighboring Cesar Chavez Leadership Academy. The literacy program provides personal books for students and is currently soliciting volunteers to record themselves reading the books so the children can read along with them. This program is relatively easy to scale and expand.
- SMCC hosted camps consistently achieve parity male-female enrollment. The team is examining what factors may be contributing to the lower female enrollment and how any issues could be remedied.
- Maria Benson and Rosa Cota are submitting a proposal to present on Virtual Pre-College Programs at the 2022 League for Innovation in the Community College Conference (February 28 - March 3, 2022).

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2. FINANCIALS

- a. Please provide an Income vs. Expense statement below or on a separate page for grant specific dollars as submitted in your grant application. If there are any major variances, please explain. If there were any approved budget modifications during the grant period please explain and report on how these changes affected the project.

Budget Item	Grant Amount	Expended	Balance
Technology Items	4440.00	5011.09	(571.09)
Virtual College Prep Program (Camp Excursion)	2100.00	4670.72	(2570.72)
Curriculum Development	5250.00	5250.00	0
Instruction and Facilitation	7105.00	7105.00	0
Camp Operational Coordination	1200.00	1200.00	0
Meals/Snack/Showcase	5000.00		5000.00
Gift Cards/Prizes	1000.00	450.00	550.00
Printing Supplies	300.00		300.00
Marketing and Promotion	3550.00	2500.00	1050.00
Books and Literacy Aids (STEM Day)	1200.00	2166.01	(966.01)
Total:	3,1145.00	27,296.33	2,792.18

Major Variances: The camp excursion was replaced by the virtual college preparatory program and the items mailed out to support the participants. Additionally, the STEM Day activity was refocused to support literacy in K-5 students. Since there were no in person activities, the food budget off set the costs overruns by of the books and items incurred by the virtual programs.

Approved Budget Modifications: [Click here to enter text.](#)

- b) Describe the progress made towards your efforts to financially sustain the program as outlined in the sustainability portion of the grant application. If discontinuing the program or project, what factors led to this decision?

South Pointe Elementary School was awarded an ESSR Grant that covers salaries of instructional aids. In addition to gaining classroom instructional training the SMCC student interns participating in the afterschool program have and opportunity to become staff members at South Pointe Elementary School.

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Dr. Eula Dean has been investigating opportunities to partner and form strategic alliances with other community organizations in support of K - 5 literacy initiatives, i.e., The Phoenix Emerald Foundation and The Phoenix Community Foundation.

The Black Brown and College Bound program is supported by the Phoenix Public Library - College Depot, The Phoenix Community Foundation, ASU, and several of the Maricopa community colleges. The funding from the GRIC Grant helped to elevate the profile of the program - professional flyers, the video library, care packages for student participants, etc.

SMCC recently implemented a three year Verizon funded STEM program for girls. However, the Ultimate Technology programs remain the only fee-free STEM programs supporting students regardless gender and socioeconomic status.

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3. OTHER COMMENTS

- a) Please share any other comments you have for our grant making or reporting process, or any comments in general.

Click here to enter text.

- b) May we share your success and/or project outcomes? If so, in a separate document please prepare a brief summary of the outcomes and benefits the project has provided and include any information you would like to make available to individuals who may be eligible for your services. Email to cheryl.nabli@gric.nm.us. We also welcome digital photos.

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Report of the Treasurer

Member Lisa Davis

The Tamiouchos report was submitted and presented by Soror Lisa Davis. The Chapter will file for Audit.

Member Eula Saxon Dean moved that we accept the grant for Delta Beta Omega in the amount of \$44,100.00. Director Angela Johnson seconded.

Member Tonette Echols moved that we amend the budget and take target 3 budget back to what it was previously and consider doing an event after the foundation gets a better budget.

Member Tracy Lewis seconded and passed

Vote was Original amount going back to \$38,550.00 from \$44,100.00 The program chair will take it back to target 3 committee for further consideration.

AKArama Foundation	
Chase Bank	
FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY	
	<u>Sep-21</u>
Beginning Balance	\$273,655.30
INCOME	
<u>Donations</u>	
Benevity Fund	66.09
Blackbaud	120.00
Charities Aid Foundaion	40.00
Valley of the Sun United Way	345.50
Total Donations	571.59
Total Income	571.59
Total Cash Available	274,226.89
<u>Cash Disbursed</u>	
Scholarships	3,000.00
NAACP	(75.00)
Intuit	81.45
Total Expenditures	3,006.45
Ending Balance	\$271,220.44
TOTAL FUNDS - AVAILABLE CHASE BANK	\$271,220.44
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE - CHASE BANK SAVINGS	32,556.88
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE CHASE BANK	\$303,777.32

2022 PHOENIX AKARAMA FOUNDATION INC. BUDGET/GRANT				
				2022
EXPENSES				
A. ARTS				600.00
B. EAF CONTRIBUTION				1,900.00
C. HBCU CALL TO ACTION				
1. #CAP			2,000.00	
2. KIDS COMPUTER KAMP			1,500.00	
3. HBCU 4 Life			250.00	
4. THINK HBCU-HBCU COLLEGE FAIR			3,900.00	
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT			7,650.00	7,650.00
D. BUILDING ECONOMIC LEGACY				1,200.00
E. GLOBAL IMPACT				100.00
F. CONNECTIONS				0.00
G. WOMEN'S HEALTH/WEALTH				1,000.00
H. MLK DAY OF SERVICE				50.00
I. SCHOLARSHIPS				
1. AWARDS			20,000.00	
2. MEALS (2 Guests + Recipient@ \$60)			1,800.00	
3. DONOR FAMILIES			1,600.00	
4. EXPENSES (POSTAGE/PROGRAMS)			500.00	
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS			23,900.00	23,900.00
J. ADS				1,000.00
K. CONTRIBUTIONS				
1. URBAN LEAGUE			200.00	
2. NAACP			300.00	
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS			500.00	500.00
L. CONTINGENCY				600.00
TOTAL PHOENIX AKARAMA FOUNDATION INC. GRANT				38,500.00

Programs Update

Member Angela Johnson

PHOENIX AKARAMA FOUNDATION PROGRAM REPORT OCTOBER 27, 2021

Activities Since Last Meeting:

- ❖ The 2021 Virtual HBCU Fair took place on Saturday, September 25th from 9:00am – 12:00pm. This year's theme was "HBCUs: A Stellar Shot at Success." There were over 200 registrants for this event that included various workshops for students and there was also a parent workshop. All participants received an HBCU Fair notebook and a thumb drive in the mail following the event. During the event one Book ship in the amount of \$1,000 was given to a Tennessee State University student who is majoring in biology with a minor in psychology.
- ❖ #CAP held its virtual kickoff program on Saturday, October 23rd from 10:00am – 12:00pm. During the first half of the program, students were enlightened with a presentation by Jill Goldsmith, who discussed the Do's and Don'ts of College App Essay Writing. Jill previously worked with a student who received over \$1 million in college scholarships that were mostly awarded due to an outstanding essay

that Jill shared with the participants. The second half of the program was dedicated to the Common Black College App presentation, where High School Seniors were moved to one breakout room while the others went into a separate room where they discussed the preparation needed for their senior year. The use of the Common Black College App was paid for by Phoenix AKARAAMA Foundation so that high school seniors could apply to dozens of HBCUs at one time, free of charge.

- ❖ In acknowledgement of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, member Dr. Michele Halyard recorded four short videos surrounding breast cancer awareness and education that we have posted on our social media platforms. We are also collecting bras for the Bra Recyclers, LLC. The type of bras we are collecting are sports bras and regular bras, new, pre-loved/gently used and worn bras, and post-surgery breast cancer supplies and accessories (Mastectomy Bras, Prosthesis, Camisoles Sleeves, etc.). The Bra recyclers, LLC will collect the bras and in-turn donate them to Impact One Breast Cancer Foundation, a Phoenix-based non-profit organization who provides these bras to uninsured women.
- ❖ In support of Caregiver's awareness month, we have given a donation of \$500 as a Session Sponsor to the FIBCO Family Services "Real Talk" Series that will be held on Saturday, November 13th. This virtual program will feature healthcare providers and caregivers highlighting the challenges of Alzheimer's, Dementia, and caregiving within our community.
- ❖ On Saturday, October 2nd, members of the Phoenix AKARAMA Foundation met to assemble and deliver 100 Kindness Kits to *Circle the City* and will be distributed to the Phoenix homeless population. The kits included essential items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks, sunblock, lip balm, water, non-perishable snacks, and even a note of encouragement to remind our neighbors that they are loved!
- ❖ Throughout this year we have been asking members to track their donations to black-owned businesses, and as of October 6th we have tracked \$108,500.07 in black dollar spending. We continue to encourage our members to continue tracking their economic impact at the local, regional, and national level.
- ❖ We are partnering with *Grow with Google* to host a series of free webinars that are open to the public. The first webinar took place on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30pm and was titled "Improve Your Resume with Practical Strategies". We will host an additional workshop focused on small business owners on Tuesday, November 9 from 6:30-7:30 called "**Reach Customers Online with Google**".

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johnson
First Vice-President and Program Chair

New request

Member Shawn Gear

Links Incorporated > Phoenix Emerald Foundation has an annual golf outing and it's for scholarship. The event was held on October 2, 2021; Delta Beta Omega was not in session and would have missed the September deadline. \$250.00 for a T sign sponsorship and Phoenix AKArama would be listed on the website.

Member Eula Saxon Dean moved that we make a \$250.00 to The Emerald Foundation .

Member Tracy Lewis seconded and passed.

Sphinx Educational fund > Thurgood Marshall Brunch will be held on October 30, 2021. Alpha Phi Alpha will be needing support for the brunch however a specific amount was not requested.

Member Eula Saxon dean moved that we make a \$250.00 donation to the Sphinx Educational Fund

Seconded and passed by Member Angela Johnson

Old Business

Member Shawn Gear

none

New Business

Member Shawn Gear

none

Adjournment

Member Shawn Gear

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

DeSheania Martin

DeSheania Martin, Recording Secretary

Shawn Gear

Shawn Gear, Foundation President