



## **DORCHESTER SCHOOL RECEIVES TWO YEAR STEAM PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH SMITHFIELD FOODS AND NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

**[DORCHESTER, NE, September 2020]** – Dorchester Public School has received a competitive two-year grant to implement FUSE, a cutting-edge STEAM program for students in 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The grant is valued at \$26,000, and includes training, materials, and equipment. In FUSE, students explore different STEAM (STEM plus Arts) topics through leveled activities, called challenges. FUSE challenges include robotics, 3D design and printing, music, apparel, coding, and more. Students choose which specific challenge to work on daily, and challenges are compatible with remote and hybrid learning.

The program is made possible thanks to support from Smithfield Foods. The company's \$350,000 donation to Northwestern University will help implement 20 new FUSE Studios in participating school districts throughout the Midwest and North Carolina.

“The FUSE team has always put the student experience at the center of our work. We are thrilled by Smithfield Food’s generous support as we launch 20 new FUSE Studios in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and North Carolina. We look forward to developing sustaining partnerships with each of our grant recipients, and we are excited that students in Smithfield communities will receive access to a diverse suite of challenges designed to ignite creativity, collaboration and discovery through activities not found in a typical classroom setting.”

--Reed Stevens, Northwestern University Professor and Founder of FUSE

“We believe education can transform people and communities. We firmly believe in developing the next generation of students, starting in the communities we call home. For that reason, we’re proud to support FUSE’s innovative work to better equip students with 21st-century skillsets.”

--Keira Lombardo, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Compliance; President of the Smithfield Foundation

## **ABOUT FUSE**

FUSE is a STEAM education program housed within Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy that facilitates student exploration and learning through hands-on, interest-driven challenges inspired by real-world STEM and design practices. In FUSE, students work in a studio-like environment, learn through making, and develop 21st century skills such as problem solving, persistence, collaboration, and communication. Learn more at [www.fusestudio.net](http://www.fusestudio.net).

## **ABOUT SMITHFIELD FOODS, INC.**

Headquartered in Smithfield, Va. since 1936, Smithfield Foods, Inc. is an American food company with agricultural roots and a global reach. Our 40,000 U.S. and 15,000 European employees are dedicated to producing "Good food. Responsibly.®" and have made us one of the world's leading vertically integrated protein companies. We have pioneered sustainability standards for more than two decades, including many industry firsts, such as our ambitious commitment to cut our carbon impact by 25 percent by 2025. We believe in the power of protein to end food insecurity and have donated hundreds of millions of food servings to our neighbors in need. Smithfield boasts a portfolio of high-quality iconic brands, such as Smithfield®, Eckrich® and Nathan's Famous®, among many others. For more information, visit [www.smithfieldfoods.com](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com), and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)