



# 2024/25 PROGRAM YEAR

ANNUAL REPORT

**IMH**  **TEP'S**  
LEGACY ACADEMY



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## REPORTING PERIOD:

September 2, 2024 – August 30, 2025

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Imhotep's Legacy Academy (ILA) engaged **6,096 students through an excess of 30 Imhotep's Science Magic Shows**. This

is a continued increase in student interactions with our organization, through enrollments and targeted engagements in rural and urban communities. ILA currently has employed 4 full-time and 45 part-time staff: with majority of the part-time staff being university students.

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## COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

Our **community collaborators** are Promoting Leadership in Health for African Nova Scotians (PLANS), Black Business Initiative - Business is Jammin' (BBI BIJ), Black Educator's Association (BEA), Chebucto Connections (Spryfield), Akoma Centre, North Preston Recreational Centre, East Preston Boys and Girls Club, Frontier College, The Prep

Academy, Menelik Hall (Whitney Pier) and The Truro Township (Black Nova Scotia Community Garden).

# OUTREACH

In our outreach initiative, students are engaged through visits to P-12 schools, visits to libraries and community centres as well as visits to the ILA Makerspace on Dalhousie University's Sexton Campus. The locations for outreach are focused on Black and African Nova Scotian communities.

The outreach initiative involves one-to-two-hour presentations of science activities to classes, whole schools or groups of Black students. This has three objectives:

- Recruit Black students for our core weekly programs as each session ends with registration for our programs.
- Expose all students to “Black scientists doing science”. This eases the way for Black junior high and high school students in STEM as all students can see science leaders and presenters who are Black.
- Unique Tri-mentoring approach: University Professor mentoring a university student who then mentors a junior high/high school student. This intentional approach solidifies learning and teaching at each level.

Below is a list of schools in which ILA has directly or indirectly engaged with students. The schools bolded are partner schools with ILA in STEM programming to students.

## **Auburn Drive High**

Bicentennial School

## **Clayton Park Junior High**

## **Citadel High School**

## **Chedacto Education Centre**

## **Cole Harbour High**

C. P. Allen High

## **Dartmouth High**

## **D'uc d'Anville Elementary**

Dartmouth South Academy

Eric Graves Memorial Junior High

## **Guysborough Academy**

## **Halifax West High**

Highland Park Junior High

Island View High

John Martin Junior High

## **Joseph Howe Elementary**

## **Lockview High**

## **Millwood High**

J. L. Isley High

## **Park West Junior High**

## **Sackville High**

Oxford Junior High

Rocky Lake Junior High

## **Bible Hill Junior High**

Cobequid Educational Centre

Dr. W. A. MacLeod Consolidated

F. H. MacDonald Academy

Hants East Rural High

Hants North Rural High

New Glasgow Academy

North Nova Education Centre

Northumberland Regional High

Riverside Education Centre

South Colchester Academy

## **Truro Middle School**

Uniacke District

Annapolis West Education Centre

Avon View High

## **Bridgetown Regional Community School**

## **Central Kings Rural High**

## **Evangeline Middle School**

Horton High

Kings County Academy

## **Middleton Regional High**

## **Northeast Kings Education Centre**

## **West Kings District High**

## **Woodlawn High**

Wolfville School

# CORE PROGRAMS

ILA's **core weekly programs** are the ILA Coding Program (ICO), the After-School Program (ASP), the *FIRST* LEGO League Program (FLL), the Virtual School Program (VSP), and the Culture of Growing Program (CoG). There were **667**

**students** engaging weekly in ILA programs, this is a **54% increase** in student participation from the 2023/2024 academic year.

## ILA CODING PROGRAM (ICO)

The objective of the ILA Coding Program is to introduce students to current programming languages, ideas of algorithm design and microcontrollers. ILA has continually focused the student learning experience on how to write code and apply it to real world problems. This has led to advanced Python programming being introduced for app development and website creation.

There were **59 students** in total attending these sessions: 13 students were enrolled in Wix/Wordpress sessions, 16 students were enrolled in the HTML and CSS programming

language sessions, 6 students were enrolled in the Arduino/C++ sessions, 15 students were enrolled in Python sessions and 9 students were enrolled in the Java session. 45% of ILA's employees in this program were from the **Faculty of Engineering** and the **Faculty of Computer Science** at Dalhousie University.

In-person ILA Coding sessions resumed the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and lasted for 24 weeks. There were sessions on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and two concurrent Saturday sessions.

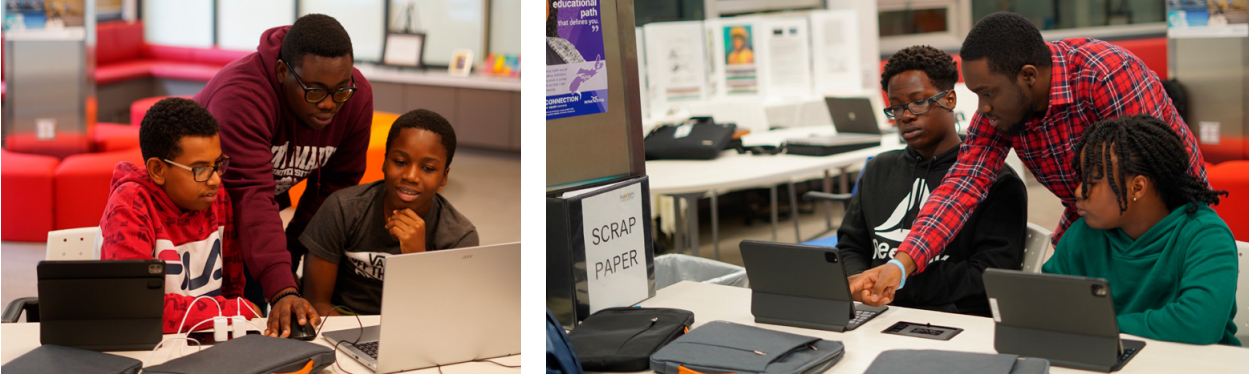


Figure 1 – ILA Coding session

**SPONSOR:** Dalhousie University

## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE PROGRAM (FLL)

The FLL program introduces students between the ages of 9-14 years old to hands-on robotics construction (using LEGO), programming (in the Scratch & Python languages) and innovation (research focused). The students are tasked with solving real-world problems in three separate components: robot building, an innovation project and a team-building challenge. Through these three components, students experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills, using a hands-on approach. **The theme for the 2024/2025 academic year was: SUBMERGED.**

There were **76 students** in total attending sessions. 35% of ILA's employees in this program were from the **Faculty of Engineering** and the **Faculty of Computer Science** at Dalhousie University.

FLL sessions resumed early—starting on August 12, 2024. In-person sessions were held three days per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Due to the intense preparation needed for the varying competition levels, the FLL Program ran for **32 weeks**. There was one registered

FLL team (10 persons on each team) and one registered RoboFest team (6 persons on each team). On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 there were FLL and RoboFest competitions respectively held through Acadia Robotics at Acadia University in Wolfville Nova Scotia. During the FLL competition, our Legos R Us team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Core Values section at Acadia University. It must be noted that our students have consecutively won the Core Values Award at the regional level due to their ability to work fluidly as a team. The Legos R Us team also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Robot mission category in the regional FLL competition.

This year marked a deeper collaboration with the East Preston Boys and Girls Club through which we commenced weekly FLL sessions at that site. In addition, the FLL program was also established in the Annapolis Valley Region at Evangeline Middle School in this 2024/2025 program year.

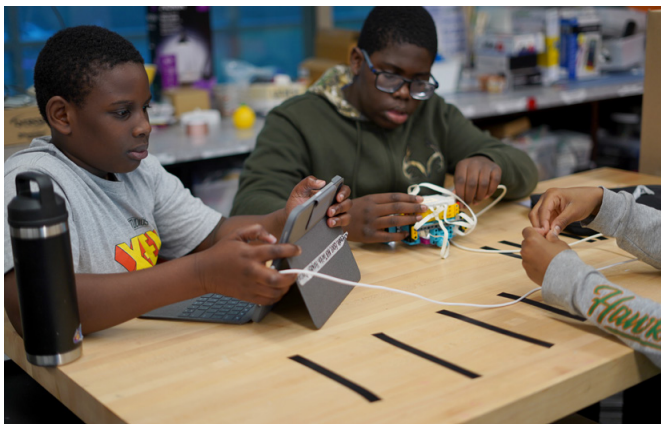


Figure 2 - FLL Session highlighting students learning motion programming

**SPONSORS:** Acadia Robotics, Dalhousie University, Michelin Fund, NSERC PromoScience, WISEAtlantic

## VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM (VSP)

VSP is one of our high school level programs that actively prepares students for university STEM subjects: students are tutored primarily in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Upon request, tutoring is also available in other subjects. Students are tutored in-person at school or at the ILA Learning Centre, or virtually via Microsoft Teams or Google Meet using our **online booking portal**. Students are supported individually or in a group setting (only at schools) depending on the needs of the student.

82% of ILA employees in this program were from the **Faculty of Engineering** and the **Faculty of Science** at Dalhousie University. There were **238 students** attending at least one tutoring session. Tutoring sessions were daily and were delivered in-person from the ILA offices or from any of the partner schools mentioned previously, as well as online. There were two community locations: at East Preston Community Centre, in collaboration with Frontier College, and at Chebucto Connections in Spryfield, NS. In

addition to these community locations there were several schools where tutoring was administered in person, twice a week: Auburn High School, Cole Harbour High School, Citadel High School, Halifax West High School, Sackville High School, J.L. Isley High School, Digby Regional High School, Central Kings Rural High School, Middleton Regional High School, Bridgetown Regional High School and Woodlawn High School.

In general, the VSP operates on an as-needed basis for the full academic year. ILA was also active in supporting the Afrocentric Math Cohort in select high schools where the program was available, such as Citadel High School, Auburn High School and Woodlawn High School. These support sessions for the Afrocentric Math Cohort were usually conducted during school hours.

**SPONSORS:** African Canadian Services Branch, Dalhousie University

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (ASP)

The ASP is a weekly science program designed to engage elementary and junior high school students through hands-on science experiments and homework assistance. Students are motivated to continue their learning by having a **take-home product** related to the session's activity.

In-person ASP sessions resumed the week of October 7, 2024. ILA Mentors connected with students at various

schools, community centres, and at the ILA Makerspace. 87% of ILA's ASP staff were university students from the Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Computer Science, and the Faculty of Science at Dalhousie University. **Weekly hands-on science activities** were held over a 24-week period, with a **total of 189 students attending**.



Figure 3 - ASP Session

**SPONSORS:** African Canadian Services Branch, Canada Summer Jobs, CISE Atlantic, Co-operative Education Incentive, Halifax Youth Foundation, NSERC PromoScience, Out-of-Schoolltime Learning Grant

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## CULTURE OF GROWING PROGRAM (COG)

The **Culture of Growing (CoG) Program** is a weekly, hands-on agricultural initiative focused on developing agriculture and food security knowledge and skills in Black youth. Youth learn about seed selection, effective soil preparation, fertilization, growing and harvesting techniques, watering systems, and build practical food production skills. This leads into an adding-value component, whereby students utilize some of their harvest as ingredients to prepare a meal or they develop a product for consumption. For example, making salad and vinaigrette from the lettuce, cherry tomatoes, carrots and beets; fries from potatoes; ketchup from tomatoes, etc. Participants' develop entrepreneurship skills through brand development, marketing and pricing.

ILA has successfully established CoG sites in four historically African Nova Scotian communities: Whitney Pier, North Preston (the largest indigenous Black community in Canada), Truro, and Digby, and has worked in partnership with the Akoma Centre (based in proximity to Cherry Brook, Lake Loon and East Preston) to provide youth in the area with an immersive hydroponic growing experience.

During the 2024-2025 program year, ILA employed six community members who engaged weekly with **50 Black youth** across the CoG sites. The program operated all-year: engaging participants in agriculture-themed hands-on science activities during the winter months, and focusing on direct sowing, intense soil work, garden safety and maintenance, and harvesting of crops during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Greenhouse growing facilitated

year-round planting. Through the CoG Program, ILA in collaboration with the respective communities, erected a greenhouse at the Whitney Pier site (Menelik Hall) in June 2023 and at the North Preston site (North Preston Recreation Centre) in June 2024.

The CoG program fosters community engagement and knowledge transfer. For example, at the Whitney Pier site in Sydney, NS, the CoG Regional Program Coordinator worked with the community to develop an intergenerational model that had grandparents, parents and youth participating in greenhouse construction and in the setup of garden boxes. They scheduled weekly sessions called "Learning Sundays", during which elders in the community helped participants with gardening, taught traditional ways of enhancing plant growth, and offered strategies to problem solving. Weekly student attendance ranged from 6-12 students for Truro, 8-15 students for Preston Township, 10-25 students for Sydney and 9-15 students for Digby.

The CoG program held an annual **Summer Harvest** event in 2024, during which all sites convened to showcase their harvests, students networked and learned from each other and from agriculturally-focused guest workshop presenters. In March 2025 CoG partnered with the Department of Agriculture for the "**Connect with your agriCULTURE: A Black Youth Conference**" at the NSCC Truro Campus with over 10 community and agriculture-industry-focused organizations showcasing their innovative agricultural best practices.



Figure 4 - CoG Session highlighting bed preparation and cultivation in the North Preston Greenhouse



Figure 5- Participants at the Connect with your agriCULTURE Black Youth Conference

**SPONSORS:** ABSW, Canadian Heritage, NS Department of Agriculture

# OTHER PROGRAM UPDATES

## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH (AHM) EVENTS

In collaboration with Canadian Heritage, ILA hosted a **Blacks in STEM Exhibit Tour 2025**. The Exhibit Tour was very impactful in addressing stereotypes regarding the competency of Blacks in STEM, and it brought recognition to Blacks/persons of African descent that would normally be overlooked. This was a multi-day event that spanned six Black/African Nova Scotian communities in the months of February and March.

- February 27<sup>th</sup> – North Preston Community Centre, North Preston
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – J.L. Isley High School, Spryfield
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library, Digby
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Colchester East Hants Public Library, Truro
- March 21<sup>st</sup> – NSCC Truro Campus for the “Connect with your agriCULTURE: A Black Youth Conference”
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – Menelik Hall Community Centre, Whitney Pier, Sydney
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Nelson Whynder Elementary School, North Preston
- March 28<sup>th</sup> – St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish

In addition, ILA hosted four additional events to commemorate Black excellence:

### **1. February 26<sup>th</sup> – Movie Screening – ILA Learning Centre (1360 Barrington Street), Halifax.**

On this day ILA hosted a movie screening of “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind”. The movie highlighted themes of community, culture and resilience for Blacks. This aligned with ILA’s mandate of inspiring Black students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) along their academic journey from elementary to post-

secondary studies. At the movie’s conclusion, an informal discussion was facilitated with participants on the movie’s prevalent themes.

### **2. March 15<sup>th</sup> – Scissors & Stories – ILA Learning Centre (1360 Barrington Street), Halifax.**

Jalana Lewis, Director of African Nova Scotian Community Engagement at Dalhousie University was invited to moderate the Salon Talks event. Also, a male barber and a female aesthetician were invited to provide beautification treatments. Jalana initiated the conversation on the questions “How do we strengthen our cultural knowledge amongst our communities and with other cultures?” This event replicated a “barbershop/salon” environment which is synonymous to a safe, informal, engaging and thought-provoking community location in which grassroots community members are active participants. African Nova Scotian, African Canadian, Afro-Caribbean, and African community members were present, and this provided an authentic space to promote the discussion on multiculturalism and racism.

### **3. March 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> – STEM Essay Workshops - ILA Learning Centre (1360 Barrington Street), Halifax. 11 participants.**

### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> – STEM Essay Competition – Scotiabank Auditorium, Dalhousie University, Halifax. 45 participants.**

Dr. Claudette Bouman (retired High School Teacher) and Dr. Kim Borden-Penney (Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies at Acadia University) are two active members of the ILA Board of Directors, and they were the workshop presenters to the junior high and high school participants. This workshop refined the youth’s writing and presentation skills while emphasizing the contributions

of Blacks in literary arts and in STEM. The junior high and high school participants were asked to select an innovative Black person or a person of African descent who made contributions in STEM, as the subject of their essay. This enabled workshop participants to familiarize themselves with the contributions of Blacks in STEM. All participants were required to present their essays on the competition day.

#### **4. March 26<sup>th</sup> – Language Swap – ILA Learning Centre (1360 Barrington Street), Halifax.**

This event attracted participants from the Caribbean, Nova Scotia, Western Africa, Northern Africa and East Asia. In

their native languages, participants shared a short story, song, poem, or simply spoke a few words and explained the associated meaning.

These events had an excess of 1,500 participants including primary, secondary and tertiary students, school and community centre administrators, parents, teachers, professors and community members. Imhotep’s Legacy Academy’s AHM Events assisted ILA in achieving expected results related to Black excellence and dispelling the negative stereotypes related to Blacks’ aptitude for STEM.



*Figure 6- Winners from the Black STEM Essay Writing Competition*

**SPONSORS:** Canadian Heritage, Dalhousie University

## IMHOTEP'S LEARNING COMMUNITY (ILC)

Imhotep's Learning Community (ILC) is a peer-mentorship group formed of university students of African heritage to support each other as they progress through university and/or college, regardless of academic discipline. This intentional community meets at least once a month for an event that is focused on building students' success and offering a safe space to receive encouragement.

At the commencement of the 2024-2025 academic year, the following missions and goals were created for the society:

- Grow the outreach of ILC
- Make an impact amongst the local student community
- Focus main efforts on the professional development of the local student population

These goals were developed to strategically address potential opportunities. Focusing efforts on the growth of the society, its impactfulness, and professional development would allow ILC to continue to align its mission with that of ILA – STEM and leadership development of Black students. Of the six society events organized by the executive team, one involved professional development, three focused on Blackness, and three involved collaborations with other societies / organizations. One of the collaborations involved SMU's largest Black student society, where executive members on both teams worked together to host engaging events that brought new students to the ILA Learning Centre.

**SPONSOR:** Vice-Provost Student Affairs  
(Dalhousie University)

## BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN STUDENTS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW IN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (BEST STEM)

BEST STEM is a national network of out-of-school-time programs that support and prepare Black, Indigenous and LatinX elementary and secondary school-level students for pathways into postsecondary science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs and professions. This is accomplished through the exchange of expertise, materials, training and personnel. The project

was designed by a consortium of experts in outreach programming at Dalhousie University (ILA has 22-year's experience in STEM), McMaster University (MacISTEP), University of Calgary (BrainSTEM Alliance), and Ethos Labs in BC.

Below are the outreach numbers to-date for the BEST STEM initiative:

National Partner	Science Magic Show #	Weekly Attendance
MAC ISTEP	594	18
BRAINSTEM ALLIANCE	901	17
ETHOS LABS	777	20
ILA	3824	189
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6096</b>	<b>244</b>

**SPONSOR:** Canadian Heritage

## SCIENCE FAIRS

ILA held its annual **Young Gifted and Black Science Fair** in February 2025. This Science Fair is designed to get students of African descent excited about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students are challenged to find solutions to real world problems with the assistance of a graduate student, industry professional or professor as a mentor.

**Participants:** 19

**Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – \$150 value, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – \$125 value and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – \$100 value

ILA participated in the **Canadian Black Scientist Network**

**Science Regional Fair** as the host for the Atlantic region competition node of the Canada Science Fair. There were **19 participating students** in the Atlantic node of the Regional Fair with the top 3 students (combined Atlantic and Central nodes) proceeding to the Canada Wide Science Fair with an additional incentive of **\$500 worth of prizes**.

The top 2 medaling students Sean and Temiloluwa received a fully paid trip to Fredericton, New Brunswick to attend the Canada-wide Science Fair on May 31, 2025 – June 7, 2025, and were awarded entrance scholarships from Dalhousie University's Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science.



Figure 7 - Winners of the CBSN Regional Science Fair at CWSF in Ottawa

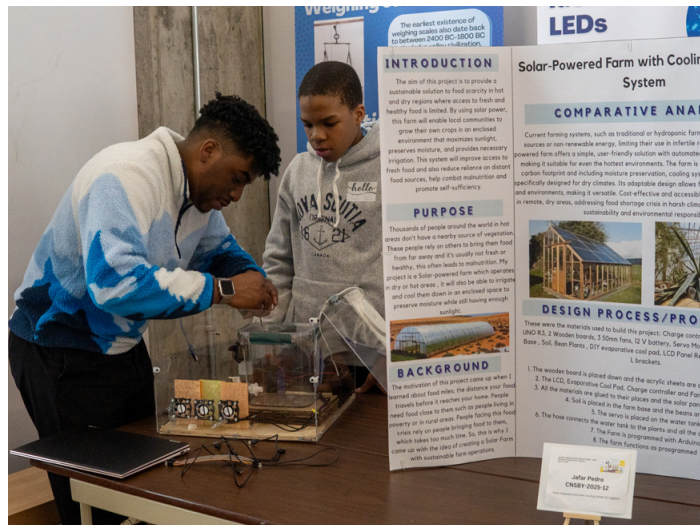


Figure 8 – Young, Gifted, & Black Science Fair in Halifax

**SPONSORS:** Canadian Black Scientists Network, Dalhousie University

## ILA-TD OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The new **ILA-TD Opportunity Scholarship winners** for **2024/2025** were Joanne, Daniel A., Joseph, Basirat, Emmanuel, Daniel E., Jafar, Zere, Temiloluwa, Damon and Fares. Overall, 43 students received university entrance

scholarships, increments or renewals with 11 new awardees in this year. There have been **73 named ILA-TD Scholars since 2012.**

**SPONSOR:** TD Bank

## SUMMER STUDENT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

There were four **Summer Student Research Scholarship** recipients:

1. Mark Okereke Uchekukuwu supervised by Dr. Kevin Hewitt and Dr. J. Pemberton Cyrus  
Research topic: *Mechanical optimization of a Ramen-Reflectance probe for intraoperative liver steatosis assessment*
2. Tarelle Sterling supervised by Dr. Keisha Jefferies  
Research topic: *Belonging and Success for Black Nursing Students in Nova Scotia: An Exploratory Mixed Method Study*

3. Nwadiiloramma Azuka-Onwuka supervised by Dr. Mayra Barrera  
Research topic: *How Users Interact with 3D Virtual Spaces and How UI Design Influences Perception*
4. Akuabata Okanya supervised by Dr. Simon Gadbois  
Research topic: *Canine Olfaction*

**SPONSORS:** *Imhotep's Legacy Academy, Dalhousie University Faculties of Computer Science, Engineering, Health, Science*

## QUIZ TOURNAMENT

For **ILA's 2024 Black STEM Literacy Week**, we held two events: The Hands-on Rover & Orbiter Activity and the STEM Space Quiz Tournament. The events in 2024 were centered around Space. For the STEM Quiz Tournament, students received a Study Guide (repository of practice questions and concept explanation) after registration. Twenty-five teams composed of **86 junior high and high school students** from across the province

gathered to test their STEM knowledge and engage in a friendly competition for prizes (medals, iPads) and the title of STEM Quiz Champions. The Kahoot! platform was used to facilitate the Quiz for participating students. Teams were comprised of three students in Grades 10 – 12 and two students in Grades 6 – 9. There were \$5,000 in prizes awarded.

### 2024 STEM Quiz Tournament Results

Award	Team Name	Average Score	Rank	Team Members
<b>GOLD MEDAL</b>	Brains of Ihsan	38504	Champions	Basirat, Tasneem, Afnan and Mariam
<b>SILVER MEDAL</b>	CPJH - Science Squad	35063	Second	Oluwatamilore, Awadi, Thanian and Akuabata
<b>BRONZE MEDAL</b>	Photon Seekers	34842	Third	Temiloluwa, Tioluwalope, Nabeelah and Na'eemah
	Quantum Questers	34176	Fourth	
	Jenesis - The beginning of Creativity	32612	Fifth	
	Atom Adventurers	32224	Sixth	
	Team 15	30094	Seventh	
	Neuton Nomads	29194	Eighth	
	Team 22	29058	Ninth	

Award	Team Name	Average Score	Rank	Team Members
	Team 13	28957	Tenth	
<b>MVP</b>	Basirat	37052	MVP	

**SPONSORS:** Canada Summer Jobs, Cooperative Education Incentive, Dalhousie University

## SUMMER SCHOLAR PROGRAM (SSP) AND CAMP VISITS

During the summer months ILA programs include but are not limited to week-long camps, single-day events, and collaborative programming with community organizations. chemistry experiments, rocket and drone launches, math Activities ranged from agriculture and food science to games, and social entrepreneurship education.

CAMP or Event	No. of Students	Activity	Date
Sprouting Science Camp 1 (Social Entrepreneurship)	23	Agriculture, plant science, food insecurity, social entrepreneurship, Community Market	July 7-11, 2025
Sprouting Science Camp 2	8	Agriculture, plant science, food insecurity	July 14-18, 2025
Sprouting Science Camp 3	12	Agriculture, plant science, food insecurity	July 28-August 1, 2025
Sprouting Science Camp 4 (Social Entrepreneurship)	15	Agriculture, plant science, food insecurity, social entrepreneurship, Community Market	August 11-15, 2025
Beechville SSP	11	Rocket building, DNA model, chemistry experiment, math game	July 21 & 24, 2025
Digby SSP	10	Drone assembly, DNA model, chemistry experiment, math game	July 22, 2025
Antigonish SSP	12	Rocket building, DNA model, chemistry experiment, math game	July 28-29, 2025
Lucasville SSP	15	Rocket building, DNA model, chemistry experiment, math game	July 29-30, 2025
PLANS Event	20	Chemistry activities, animal cell model, trivia	July 7, 2025
Community Day	200	Heat turbine, balloon propulsion, chemical and physical experiments	July 24, 2025
JCANS	250	Lava lamp, CO2 balloon, battery circuit	July 27, 2025
Nigerian Camp	75	Clean energy stations, solar energy, electricity	July 31, 2025

Some notable highlights include:

- Integration with partners (Discovery Centre, Business is Jammin', Green Careers) enriched programming and expanded reach.
- Emphasis on real-world skills such as social entrepreneurship and practical science helps connect youth to future career pathways.
- Hands-on and interactive activities, tailored to age group and community needs, were highly popular and fostered lively engagement and learning

**SPONSORS:** African Canadian Services Branch, Dalhousie University, Discovery Centre

## YOUTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, ILA held its annual **Youth Excellence Awards** ceremony to celebrate our program participants, university-student Mentors/Tutors, funders, and supporters. The event was attended by parents, students, academics, **ILA alumni** and various community members.

The theme for this year's event was **The Art of STEM!** The ceremony highlighted the contributions of past program participants, past program mentors, coordinators and tutors and their journey in discovering and living their STEM

dream through an artistic lens. Our panelists included Dr. Kevin Hewitt (an ILA co-Founder), Elisabet Astatkie (Engineer-in-Training, ILA-TD Scholar, ILA FLL Mentor, and former participant) as well as Zamani Folade (Architect-in-Training, Singer). Their experiences inspired and resonated with those in attendance to reflect, appreciate and encourage our youth along the interdisciplinary journey of ART and STEM.

Some of the awardees at the event are shown below.

Award	Awardee
STUDENT OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR)	Samou
STUDENT OF THE YEAR (INTERMEDIATE)	Jeddiah
STUDENT OF THE YEAR (SENIOR)	Mateo
MENTOR OF THE YEAR	Oluwadamilare Bankole

**SPONSOR:** *Dalhousie University*

# SUMMARY

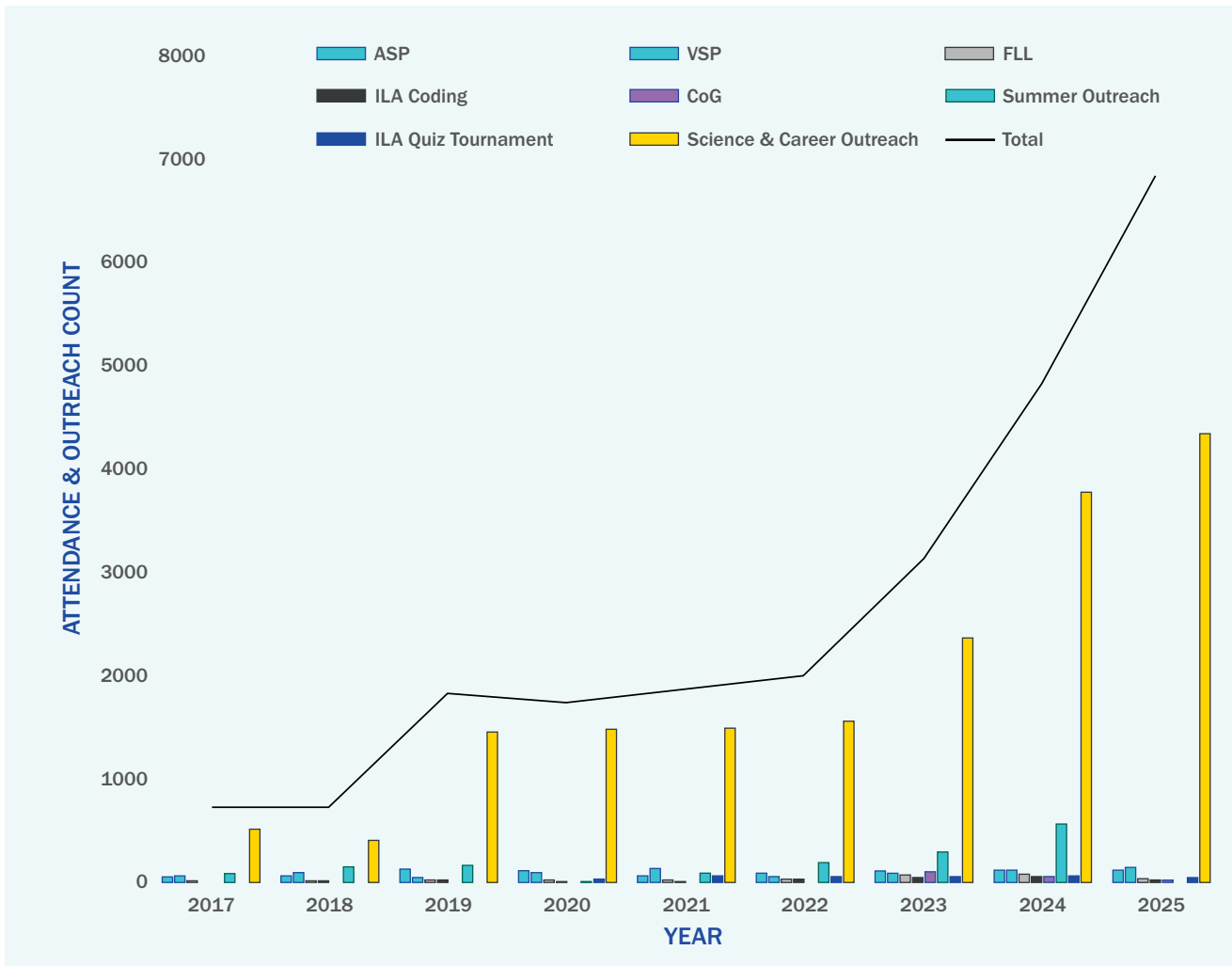


Figure 12 - ILA Participation 2017-2024

Across the various programs, as listed in Figure 12, there is a significant increase in student participation.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

ILA continually assesses program performance to guide new initiatives and workshops. Currently, we rely on Dalhousie University's Census to track success in attracting students to STEM programs. African Nova Scotian enrollment in STEM programs at Dalhousie are shown below for 2012 and 2022. There is a dramatic rise in enrollment over the ten-year period, which can be seen in the table below. Many of the enrolled students have had

contact with ILA programs. Although those ILA participants who attend other universities are not accounted for in the census data presented, it does provide a measure of the effect of our programs. ILA's programs are currently being evaluated by Dr. Jennifer Adams from the University of Calgary and Dr. Kevin Hewitt from Dalhousie University. These findings will be published when completed.

## African Nova Scotian Participation in STEM Academic Programs at Dalhousie University (Dalhousie census reports)

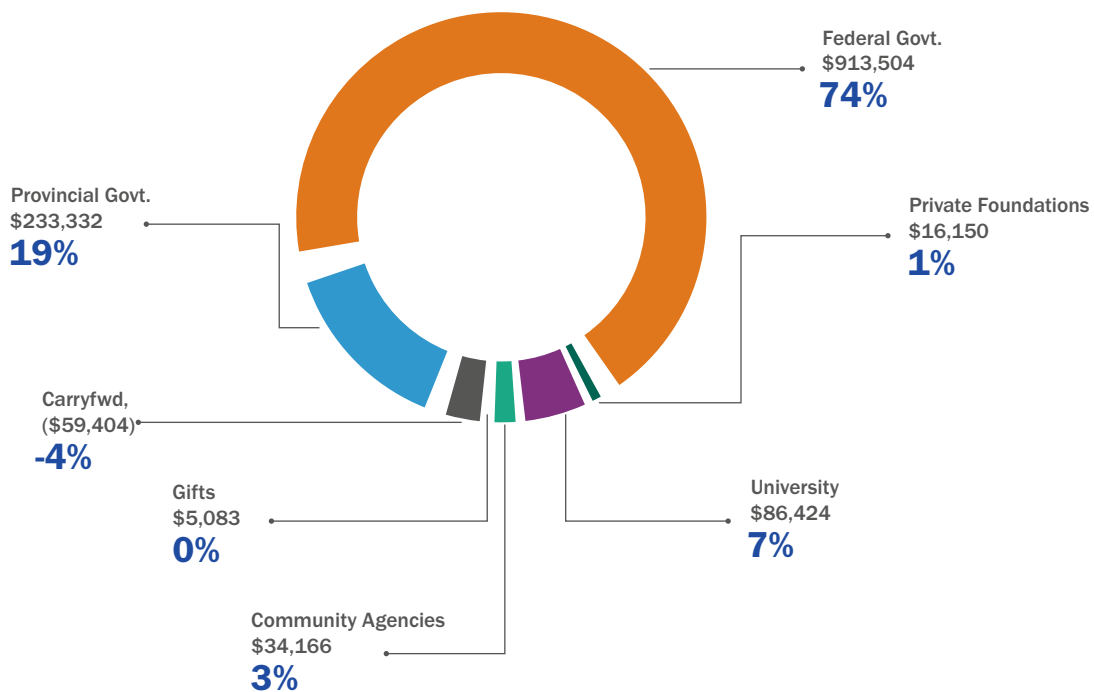
STEM Profession	2012	2022	Growth Rate
Science	15	61	4.1
Engineering	3	10	3.3
Computer Science	0	16	--
Medicine	0	20	--
Health	16	93	5.8
Agriculture	2 (2013)	5	2.5
Dentistry	0	11	--

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

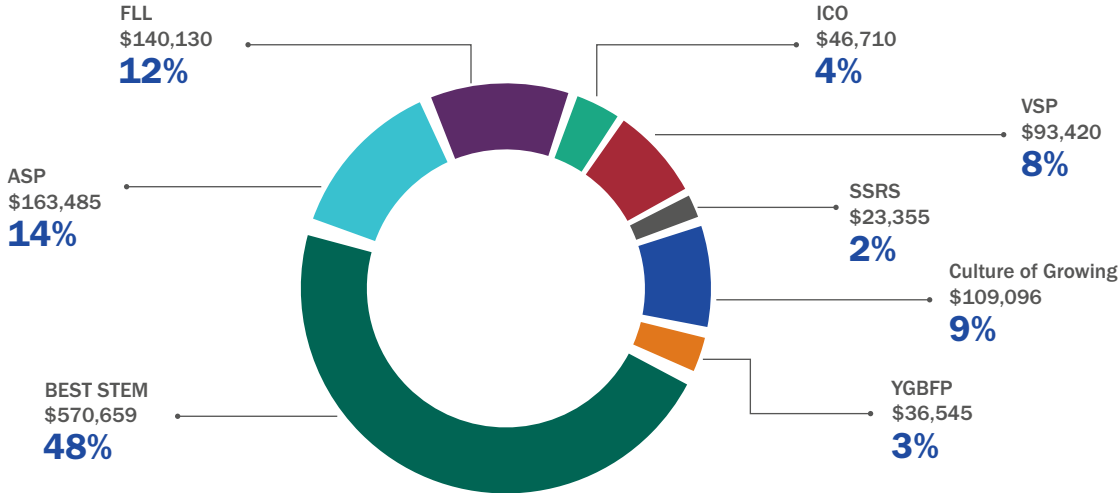
ILA's financial transactions are processed on a cash basis through the Dalhousie University financial system (BANNER) and are tracked through Special Purpose Funds. The financial statements of Dalhousie University are subject to an annual audit by an external accounting firm, reporting to the audit committee of the Board of Governors. Dalhousie does not undertake to provide external audits of specific research and special purpose projects unless it is

expressly required by the contract and specific funds are provided for this purpose. The federal Tri-Council Agencies and other funding agencies periodically review Dalhousie University research accounts. Dalhousie University maintains extensive financial policies which in conjunction with the Internal Audit Department leads to a strong control environment.

### ILA 2024/25 REVENUE SOURCES



ILA 2024/25 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



2024-2025 Financial Summary

Revenues by Type	Total Revenues	Expenses by Program	Total Expenses
Provincial Government	\$233,332	Culture of Growing	\$109,096
Federal Government	\$913,504	YGBFP	\$36,545
Private Foundations	\$16,150	BEST STEM	\$570,659
University	\$86,424	ASP	\$163,485
Community Agencies	\$34,166	FLL	\$140,130
Gift & Donations	\$5,083	ICO	\$46,710
Carry-forward	(\$59,404)	VSP	\$93,420
	<b>\$1,229,254</b>	SSRS	\$23,355
			<b>\$1,183,401</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>			<b>\$45,853</b>

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## SPONSORS 2024-25

*(alphabetical order)*

- Acadia Robotics
- African Canadian Services Branch (ACSB), NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW)
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Canadian Black Scientists Network (CBSN)
- Canadian Heritage
- CISE Atlantic
- Cooperative Education Incentive, NS Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration
- Dalhousie University (President's Office, Vice Provost Student Affairs, Faculties of Computer Science, Dentistry, Engineering, Health, Medicine, Science)
- Discovery Centre
- Halifax Youth Foundation
- Individual Donors
- Michelin Fund
- NS Department of Agriculture
- NSERC PromoScience
- Out-of-Schooltime Learning Grant, NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- SimplyCast
- TD Bank
- WISEatlantic