Students at Goizueta Invest in STE(A)M Education Initiative in Atlanta
January 11th, 2016

When MBA students at Goizueta Business School first learned about Community Guilds, they saw a great investment opportunity for their impact investing fund. After an initial 6-month impact investing loan, Goizueta Impact Investors (GII) recently extended the loan for an additional year to help the organization scale and provide vital science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, or STE(A)M, education to Atlanta-area youth.

Georgia has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country, and those who do graduate often find themselves struggling to succeed in college. In addition, underrepresented students are not choosing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers at the same rate as their peers. This disconnect comes from an insufficient education in STEM and the opportunities it provides, as well as a lack of hands-on experiences that encourage students to engage and enjoy STEM activities.

Community Guilds seeks to fill this gap with its innovative education solution: The STE(A)M Truck. This program is a mobile solution that brings creative learning opportunities to students at low-income schools. It provides an opportunity to engage with real-world problems and work alongside mentors to design and build solutions together. These fun, yet challenging, lessons inspire students to think outside the box and embrace STEM.

In 2014, Community Guilds served 55 students. The success of its pilot program that year spurred additional funding, including a loan from GII, to assist in scaling the program. Since then, Community Guilds has served over 200 students. As part of their strategic plan, Community Guilds seeks to expand its impact by more than doubling its reach in the 2015-2016 school year. To help accomplish this goal, Community Guilds and GII agreed to put together a 12-month, $30,000 revolving credit facility when the initial 6-month term loan ended and was repaid. The purpose of this revolving credit facility is to assist in covering cash flows from grants and earned revenue streams required for this growth.

GII is pleased to continue its relationship with Community Guilds and contribute investment capital towards the improvement of STE(A)M education in the Atlanta area.

Goizueta Impact Investors (GII) provides loans to high potential social enterprises, microfinance institutions, and other for/non-profit organizations that are able to demonstrate measurable social impact, have an established office within 200 miles of Atlanta, have been in operation for more than one year, and have evidence of successful previous borrowing and/or grant experience. GII is sourcing for additional loans, and interested organizations should contact: GBSImpactInvestors@gmail.com.