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**BRIGHT FUTURES LAUNCHES PILOT AFTERSCHOOL STEM PROGRAM IN
COMUNA 13**

Local students paired with university mentors to foster early interest in STEM

Medellín, Colombia — Bright Futures Initiative announced today the implementation of a first-of-its-kind afterschool STEM program for secondary students in the Comuna 13 neighborhood.

The program will begin in January 2026 with a pilot program of approximately 50 students with the purpose of sparking early interest in STEM careers. In addition to hands-on activities and afterschool workshops, the program will also connect Comuna 13 students with technology resources and mentorship sessions with STEM undergraduates at the Universidad de Antioquia.

“Our mission is to empower students through mentorship and educational support, and this partnership aligns perfectly with that goal,” said Claudia Morales, Director of Bright Futures Initiative. “This partnership with Universidad de Antioquia is a significant step forward in providing our students with the mentorship and resources they need for lifelong success in STEM.”

The program is made possible through BFI’s individual donors and educational grants as well as in-kind donations from Universidad de Antioquia in the form of STEM materials and mentor time.

According to Dr. Alejandro Vargas, Director of Community Engagement at University of Antioquia, “Partnering with Bright Futures Initiative allows us to connect our university’s resources with the needs of the local community, creating a lasting impact for mentors and mentees alike. This collaboration strengthens our commitment to community engagement and provides our students with valuable real-world STEM experiences.”

The pilot program will run until June 2026 with plans for expansion. For media inquiries, please contact Sofia Ramirez, Director of Communications, at sofia.ramirez@brightfutures.org or +55 300 555 0124.

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Bright Futures Initiative is a non-profit educational organization that empowers children and youth in underserved communities across Medellín through education, mentorship, and afterschool programs that build confidence and create opportunities for a brighter future.