



# 3d printers club

## 3rd Annual 3d Printers Showcase

The room was buzzing, the energy in the air was electric. Anywhere you turned you would see a group of students discussing 3D printed objects. Local exhibitors lined the room, showcasing their own projects and innovation. Both groups equally inspiring the other while showcasing the next generation of innovators right here in Greater Cincinnati.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, more than 500 students from Greater Cincinnati and nearly 200 adults (including club leaders, volunteers, parents, and exhibitors) attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 3d Printers Showcase held in the University of Cincinnati's Tangeman University Center. Each of the 35 [3d Printers Clubs](#) that participated in the event had their own tables showcasing their innovative car designs or inventions that solve a real-world problem. Some student exhibit highlights include:

- Aiken New Tech High School brought a wind tunnel to demonstrate how car designs work with and against wind currents.
- Queen of Peace showcased a "Fray Protector" which saves your phone cords from breaking and a "Pop Popper" that helps you open cans of pop with ease.
- John P. Parker created an "Umbrella Backpack" that would keep you and all your belongings in your backpack dry during a storm.
- Burlington Elementary displayed their cars from the Grand Prix curriculum in an engaging way, wiring their display board to an iPad which gave you more information on each of their cars.

In addition to wonderful student exhibits, community partners across the Greater Cincinnati region participated in the event by showcasing how they use 3D printing in their fields, summer opportunities for students, or how they could take the next step with STEM education. The [17 exhibitors](#) were a hit with students, highlights include:

- Exploring how P&G uses 3d printing when designing containers for products and how GE uses 3d printing with their airplane parts.
- Making popsicle stick/straw catapults with UC's Engineering fraternity, Theta Tau, and testing them with M&Ms.
- Using the Scanning Electron Microscope that is on loan by Hitachi to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at UC.
- Seven exhibitors brought their own 3D printers to share with students and explain the differences between theirs and the ones students use in their clubs.

### What is the 3d Printers Club?

A [Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative \(GCSC\)](#) club that ran at more than [49 schools and partner organizations across the Greater Cincinnati region](#). Over the course of the 10-week clubs, students are guided by teachers (club leaders) through a curriculum, but ultimately the students are the ones driving the innovation and learning process. Through the two curricula, Problem Solving Inventions and 3D Grand Prix, students are tackling real-world problems and using STEM to solve them. Clubs are mostly held after school and are supported by volunteer STEM professionals who offer guidance and expose students to STEM career possibilities.

3d Printers Clubs are supported by the Charles H. Dater Foundation, The Carol and Ralph V. Haile Jr/U.S. Bank Foundation, GE, P&G, University of Cincinnati, anonymous donors, and many [other companies and community](#) partners across the Greater Cincinnati region.







## ABOUT GCSC

Launched by P&G and StrivePartnership in 2011, GCSC is the backbone STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education / workforce development organization for the three-state Greater Cincinnati region. GCSC ecosystem partners are collaboratively creating a robust pipeline of talent to meet the accelerating demand for a STEM-expert workforce. GCSC improves STEM access for all students and prioritizes direct support to students under-represented in STEM.