accessible automation

2025–26 Impact Report.

Discovering Automation Youth Program (DAYP) — making industrial robotics accessible to students in marginalized communities.

PREPARED FOR

Funders · Sponsors · Education partners

PILOT YEAR

San Bernardino, California · 2025

2025–2026 AT A GLANCE

Year one delivered.

Twenty students completed the pilot. Five sat for industry credentials and all five passed — ten credentials earned. Seventy-eight thousand dollars of support, most of it leveraged from partners, went into the work. One cohort is already confirmed for next year.

20
Students served · FY 2025 pilot

5/5
SACA exam pass rate

10
Industry credentials earned

$78k
Total support deployed

568
Volunteer hours contributed

1
Cohort confirmed for FY 2027

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE PROBLEM

The work is here. The people aren't ready.

Manufacturing is being transformed by automation — but our education and communities aren't keeping up.

01

A widening automation skills gap

U.S. manufacturers project hundreds of thousands of automation-adjacent roles going unfilled this decade as demand outpaces the trained workforce.

02

Underserved students locked out

Industrial robotics, machine vision and PLC training rarely reach students in low-income communities — the equipment lives behind tuition or geography.

03

Education disconnected from work

Career-tech classrooms still rely on simulators and toy kits. Students graduate with concepts, not the hours on real hardware employers want to see.

The result: **unmet industry demand**, **missed opportunities**, and communities **left behind**.

THE SOLUTION · ACCESSIBLE AUTOMATION

Real robots. Real systems. Real opportunity.

AAI gives students access to the industrial technology, integrated systems thinking, and industry connections they need to build in-demand skills and real careers.

320+ hours of hands-on automation training per full cohort

DAYP intern with the Epson SCARA work-cell — REAL HARDWARE

Hands-on industrial training

Students train on the same industrial robotics and machine vision platforms used in modern automated manufacturing — not classroom kits or simulators.

TRAINED ON WHAT HIRES.

System-level thinking

Students learn how robotics, machine vision, additive manufacturing, and controls work together as one integrated automation system.

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS, NOT ISOLATED SKILLS.

Workforce-aligned

Curriculum mapped to SACA industry credentials and built with partners who hire — not adjacent to industry, inside it.

INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED, NOT STANDALONE.

01 The Program

Four modules. Forty weeks. One integrated automation engineer.

Discovering Automation

PROGRAM OVERVIEW · DAYP

Four modules. Forty weeks. One clear engineering pathway.

Students progress from foundational robotics concepts to integrated automation system design — using the same technologies found in modern manufacturing.

DURATION
40 weeks
= 4 × 10-week modules

PER MODULE
80+ hours
~70% hands-on lab time

APPROACH
Project-based
Lecture, lab, integration projects

Robot Programming

Epson RC+ syntax, coordinate frames, motion commands, gripper logic, and a working pick-and-place routine.

Additive Manufacturing

From CAD to printed part — students design and produce custom end effectors and fixtures used in later modules.

Machine Vision

Camera calibration, lighting, blob and pattern detection, vision-guided pick — taught against Epson Vision Guide.

Application Engineering

The capstone: students integrate every module into a working, presented automation cell — the end-to-end project.

02 The Pilot Year

What twenty students did, what ten credentials cost, and where every dollar went.

2025 PILOT IMPACT

One year. One pilot. A model that worked.

20

Students served in the 2025 DAYP pilot cohort

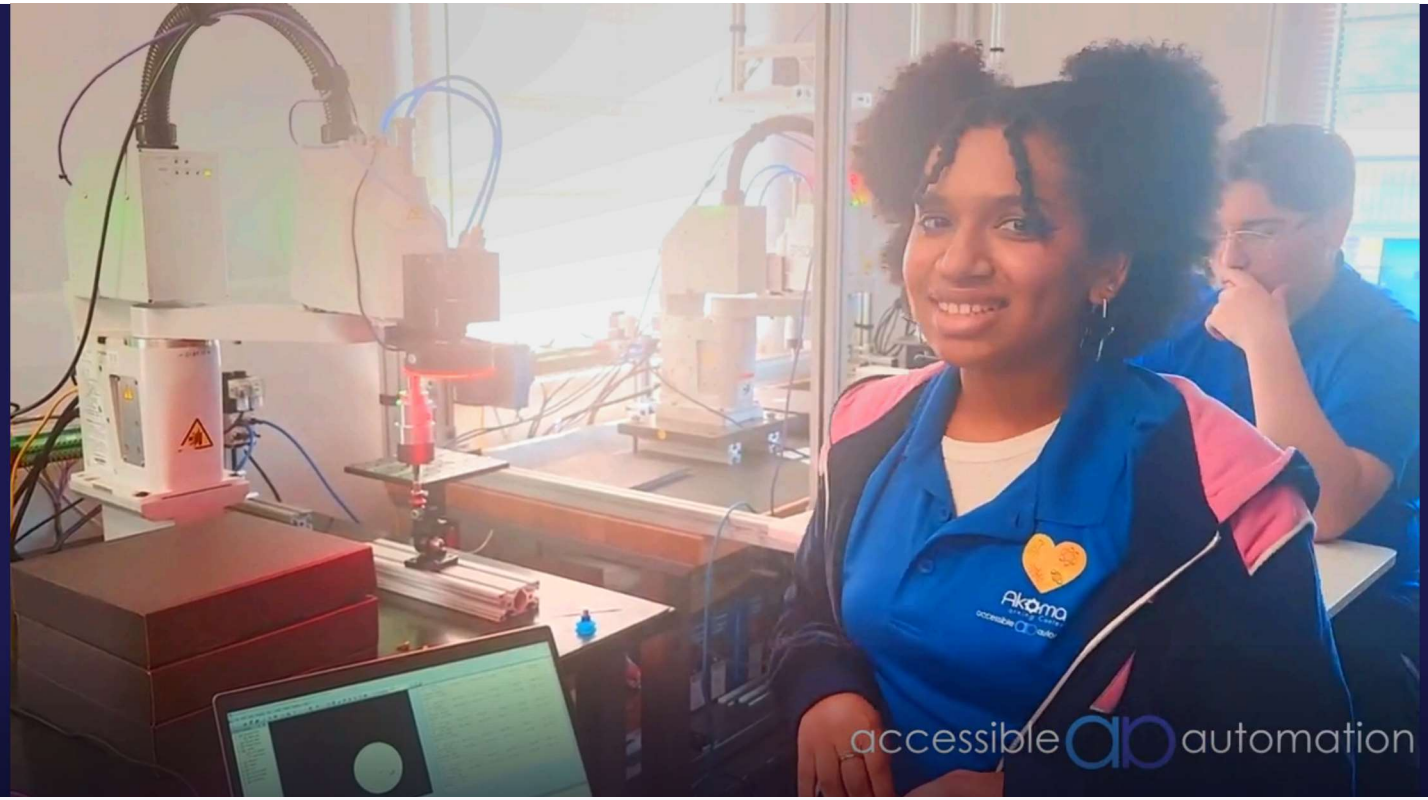
80+

Contact hours delivered per module across all four modules

90%

Cohort retention rate — students who completed the full program

Methodology · Cohort size and retention from program rosters · Contact hours from instructor logs · Hands-on percentage from instructional-time analysis · FY 2025



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT · 2025 COHORT

Kiana W.

11TH GRADE · MIDDLE COLLEGE HS

WHERE SHE STARTED	[One line — prior experience with robotics / her starting point.]
WHAT SHE BUILT	[One line — vision-guided coin-counter for the capstone, etc.]
WHAT'S NEXT	[One line — internship, college path, next cohort, job.]

> [One sentence from Kiana — pulled from an exit interview, a thank-you note, or a presentation. Real beats polished.]

PILOT COHORT OUTCOMES · FY 2025

Five students sat for SACA exams. Five passed.

Every student who took an industry credential exam earned both available certifications. The 2025 pilot has produced ten SACA credentials in its first year.

5 / 5

SACA EXAM PASS RATE

100% — every exam-taker passed

10

INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS EARNED

- Certified Industry 4.0 Associate — Robot System Operations
- Certified Industry 4.0 Robotic Systems 1

TRACKING BEGINS FY 2026

Most of the 2025 cohort is still in 11th grade. These outcomes are upstream in time — formal tracking starts as the cohort graduates and as our partnerships mature.

0 Industry placements

Tracking begins once cohort graduates age into industry eligibility.

0 College transitions

Tracking begins once the first DAYP graduates complete high school.

Methodology · SACA credentials verified against issuer records · Placement and college-transition tracking begins FY 2026 · FY 2025 data current as of May 2026

FINANCIAL SUMMARY · FY 2025 — 2026

A lean operating model — leveraged by partnerships.

Cash revenue of $24,000 was multiplied by $54,300 of in-kind support — industrial hardware loans, donated software, and volunteer engineering expertise. 82¢ of every cash dollar went to program delivery and curriculum.

TOTAL SUPPORT

$78,300

Cash + non-labor + labor in-kind

CASH EXPENSES

$27,674

FY 2025 — 2026 unaudited

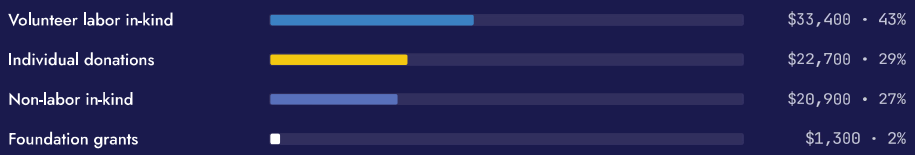
TO PROGRAM & CURRICULUM

82¢

Of every cash dollar deployed

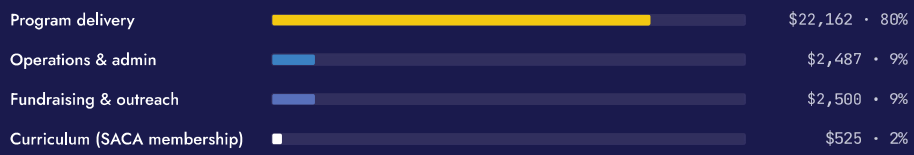
WHERE THE SUPPORT CAME FROM

$78,300 total



WHERE THE CASH WENT

$27,674 total



Methodology · FY 2025 – 2026 (Jul 1, 2025 – Jun 30, 2026) unaudited · In-kind valuations at conservative replacement / market rates · Volunteer labor valued at 568 hours × category-specific market rates · Full audited Form 990 publishes Q4 2026

IN-KIND & VOLUNTEER LEVERAGE

For every $1 of cash, AAI deployed $2.26 of industry-aligned support.

AAI's model runs on infrastructure, software, and engineering expertise contributed by industry partners and volunteer professionals — multiplying the impact of every cash dollar raised.

VOLUNTEER LABOR

$33,400

568 hours of donated professional expertise across instruction, curriculum, mentorship, and operations.

Engineering instruction Industry expert as instructional facilitator	320 HRS	**$24,000**
Curriculum development Industry-expert authoring & SACA alignment	160 HRS	**$7,200**
Administrative support Operational & program coordination	80 HRS	**$1,600**
Industry mentorship MD&M West field-trip facilitation	8 HRS	**$600**

NON-LABOR IN-KIND

$20,900

Industrial-grade equipment access and discounted software typically unavailable to underserved learners.

- **Loaned industrial Epson robotics**
  SCARA and 6-axis arms for student instruction — same hardware used in industry
- **Discounted automation software**
  RC+ 7.5 environment, Vision Guide, and workforce-aligned training tooling
- **Industry event access**
  MD&M West show-floor access and Automate Educators Day participation
- **Workforce-aligned training support**
  Curriculum integration with partner OEMs and certification bodies

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

$60,000+ of industrial-grade automation systems — not classroom kits.

AAI students learn on the same equipment they'll encounter in industry: industrial robots, machine vision systems, additive manufacturing, and conveyor lines — built into a workforce-aligned training environment.

INDUSTRIAL ROBOTICS

Epson SCARA & 6-axis

Production-grade arms running RC+ 7.5 — the same software stack used on manufacturing floors.

MACHINE VISION

Vision Guide system

Camera calibration, lighting, and pattern detection integrated with the robot work-cell.

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

Bambu Lab 3D printers

CAD-to-part fabrication of custom end-effectors, fixtures, and parts for the work-cell.

MATERIAL HANDLING

Conveyor & cell integration

Multi-component work-cell where robot, vision, conveyor, and printed tooling work together.

DELIVERY SCALE · FY 2025 - 2026

20
Unique students served

80
Total module enrollments

320
Instructional hours delivered

6,400
Student contact hours

THE KEY DIFFERENTIATOR

The Application Engineering Capstone.

Students don't end with a quiz. They end with a working build. The capstone runs DAYP students through the full lifecycle of an engineering brief — from problem statement to a system they present and defend.

01

Application Discovery

Students interview the client to define the problem and gather requirements — the first phase of every capstone.

02

Requirements

Translate the conversation into a written automation spec.

03

Design

Lay out the cell, choose tooling, define the program structure.

04

Build

Program the robot, configure vision, print fixtures, wire I/O.

05

Test

Iterate until the cycle runs reliably end-to-end.

06

Present

Present and defend the build — talk through trade-offs the way an engineer would on the job.

03 The Partnerships

The named institutions doing this work with us.

INDUSTRY EXPOSURE

From classroom to MD&M West.

In 2025, DAYP students walked the floor of one of North America's largest automation events. They didn't observe — they engaged: technical conversations with engineers, OEM demos, and a clear, concrete picture of where this work leads.

- **Anaheim Convention Center**
- **20 students on the floor**
- **Direct OEM access**
- **Career awareness**

Students engaging Automation NTH engineers · MD&M West 2025

PARTNERSHIP ECOSYSTEM

Building the automation talent pipeline.

DAYP connects community access, higher education, industry exposure, and credentials into one pipeline from neighborhood to engineering career.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT · COMMUNITY

The Akoma model: meet students where they are.

Our partnership with AUC's Akoma Learning Center lets us deliver DAYP inside a community space already trusted by the students we most want to reach.

- Community-based delivery, not institutional gatekeeping
- Access for students otherwise locked out of automation
- A scalable template for the next site, and the one after that

AAI & AUC directors with SBVC Dean of Applied Sciences

Cal Poly Pomona

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT · HIGHER EDUCATION

DAYP → College → Workforce.

An early-stage collaboration with California State Polytechnic University, Pomona begins to close the loop: students who finish DAYP have a named pathway into the engineering programs that lead directly to the work.

- Pipeline into CPP engineering programs and labs
- Faculty visibility into program graduates
- A defined route from neighborhood classroom to engineering career

The CPP partnership is intentionally upstream of placement: most DAYP students aren't ready to apply for jobs yet. They're ready to apply for the program that gets them there — and now they know which one.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT · CREDENTIALS

Now a member of SACA.

In 2026, Accessible Automation became a member organization of the Smart Automation Certification Alliance. DAYP graduates can now sit for industry-recognized credentials directly tied to the work they've already been doing.

- Member organization of the Smart Automation Certification Alliance
- Graduates eligible for industry-recognized credentials
- The program is no longer a doorway — it's a doorway with a key

04 What's Next

Cohort 2 launches September 2026 at AUC.

LOOKING AHEAD

From pilot to pipeline.

Three commitments — one confirmed, one in development, one honestly pending. We grow as our students do.

CONFIRMED

FY27

Sept 2026

Cohort 2 launches at AUC.

20 students. FY27 academic year. Same Akoma host site, same Epson hardware, now with the SACA credential pathway built in from day one.

IN DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

FY 2027

Cal Poly Pomona pilot partnership.

Agreement reached with CPP for a pilot articulation between DAYP and CPP engineering programs. Rollout details in design with university partners.

PENDING

GROWTH

FY 2028+

Second site & first industry placements.

A second host site is in exploration. The first DAYP graduates also age into industry eligibility in FY28 — unlocking the internship pathway we've been building partner relationships for.

FY 2025 → FY 2028 STUDENT TRAJECTORY

20 PILOT COMPLETE · FY 25 → **40** THROUGH COHORT 2 · FY 27 → **60+** THROUGH COHORT 3 + 2ND SITE · FY 28+

2025 — 2026 OUTLOOK

CHALLENGES

What's hard to scale.

EQUIPMENT

Industrial-grade hardware costs

Real robots, vision systems and 3D printers are expensive — and you can't replace them with kits without losing the program's edge.

INSTRUCTORS

Qualified instructor capacity

People who can teach automation and have actually done it remain scarce. Hiring and training the next instructor is the bottleneck.

FUNDING

Cohort-cost funding model

Each cohort is a fixed-cost block. We need recurring, multi-year funding — not one-time grants — to plan two sites ahead.

OPPORTUNITIES

What's pulling us forward.

DEMAND

A workforce that already needs us

OEMs and integrators in our region are actively hiring for the exact roles DAYP prepares students for — there's no demand-side conversation needed.

PARTNERSHIPS

An ecosystem ready to expand

AUC, CPP, MD&M West, Howmet and SACA each open a different door. We've spent 2025 building the partnerships needed to scale in 2026.

ALIGNMENT

Credentials that travel

SACA membership means a graduate's work in San Bernardino is recognized in Detroit, Phoenix or anywhere a credential matters.

INVESTMENT → IMPACT

Every dollar moves a student closer to the work.

Funding

You invest in DAYP

Recurring funding underwrites cohort costs — instructor time, materials, travel — at roughly $3,500 per student.

→

Equipment + Instruction

Students do real work

Funds become 80+ hours per module on real industrial hardware: programming, vision, printing, integrating.

→

Partnerships + Credentials

Students enter the workforce

Pathways into CPP, industry partners and SACA credentials turn the program into a placement engine — not a class.

Per-student cost basis · Total FY 2025 program expense ÷ cohort completers · Excludes one-time capital equipment

CALL TO ACTION

Sponsor the next DAYP cohort. $70,000.

A full FY 2026–27 cohort: 20 students · 40 weeks · four modules · SACA credential pathway · real industrial hardware. Or fund a seat, a module, or partner with us at your scale.

SEAT SPONSOR

$3,500

1 student · full program

Underwrites one student through all 40 weeks — every module, every hour on industrial hardware.

MODULE SPONSOR

$17,500

5 students · one module

Funds five students through one of the four modules: robotics, vision, additive, or application engineering.

COHORT SPONSOR

MOST IMPACT

$70,000

20 students · full cohort

Headline gift. Underwrites the entire next DAYP cohort end-to-end — the largest single-impact contribution available.

OR PARTNER WITH US — NON-CASH

Host site · Hardware loan · Internship slot · Mentor day · Trade-show access

GIVE & PARTNER

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accessible automation

Empowering today's minds to become tomorrow's innovators.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THANK YOU

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