One of the best ways to support teachers is to provide them with the resources they need, which is exactly what Chevron does through their “Fuel Your School” program.

Throughout October each year, anyone can help their local school by filling up at participating Chevron and Texaco locations. Chevron will donate $1 per 8-gallon or more fill-up, up to $750,000, to help support public education schools in Salt Lake, Davis, and Utah counties.

“We recognize that teachers often spend $500 per year for students from their personal budgets,” said Mikal Byrd, Policy, Government, and Public Affairs Representative at Chevron Salt Lake Refinery. “This is a way for us to provide what they need for their classroom and alleviate the personal responsibility. Our funding has helped over 350 schools receive resources ranging from robotics, to maker-space supplies to building toys.”

In 2016, Chevron raised $750,000 to donate to schools in Salt Lake, Davis and Utah counties, and since 2011 they have raised $3.5 million.

“Over the past five years I’ve been able to purchase graphing calculators, review books and various other items that I needed for my classroom through this program,” said Julie Laub, a chemistry teacher at Davis High School. “It might sound small but these items make a difference between good and great lessons. Having solid equipment helps make our hands-on lessons more engaging, which

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“These items make a difference between good and great lessons.”

increases students overall learning and makes it more interesting.”

Over the past five years Laub, and teachers that she’s partnered with, have received approximately $2,500 in resources for their classrooms.

One of Laub’s former students, Kylie Stephenson, who is now studying Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences at Utah State University, credits her decision to pursue STEM to her chemistry class in high school.

“Miss Laub made chemistry not only doable, but enjoyable,” Stephenson said. “She was very supportive and always willing to slow down or work with us individually if we needed it. She was able to teach us not only the simple concepts of chemistry, but the tricky and in depth concepts as well.”

Taking the burden of finding resources off of teachers gives them the opportunity to inspire their students to better understand the world around them.

“My experience with STEM and interest in a STEM career definitely started in high school,” said Carly Lundgreen, another former student from one of Laub’s chemistry classes. Lundgreen is now majoring in statistics. “Mrs. Laub’s classes that I took, AP and Honors Chemistry, taught me so much about both myself and the STEM field. Most of all, I’d say I learned that Chemistry is doable. It’s not easy, but it taught me to think critically and to have confidence in myself to accomplish something that was hard. Even though I decided not to major in chemistry, but in statistics instead, I will carry what I learned in Mrs. Laub’s class throughout my college career and my life.”

The “Fuel Your School” program is part of Chevron’s overall support for education, which has totaled over $340 million worldwide since 2013.

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