Draft of Responses for Grant Application

School Demographic:

**Which of the TVA focus areas does your project address?**

**Is this project part of your school’s or classroom’s pandemic response?**

Yes. In our district, we are participating in in-person instruction and are being mindful to keep the sharing of supplies to a minimum so our students are as safe as possible during the pandemic. Having individual robotic devices for each student will provide students the opportunity to experience the robotics program while also staying safe.

**Project narrative:**

STEM-based programming skills will become more and more essential every year. According to Oxford University, as many as 47 percent of jobs in the United States will be entirely automated within the next 20 years. Our work and job market will be transformed, generating new job opportunities in the automation field.

STEM trained workers will be in demand not only in the US, but around the world. Research shows that student interaction with educational robotics improves attitudes and understanding toward mathematics, science, engineering and technology. However, school systems have focused robotic education mostly towards the secondary level.

Sphero robots are aimed at the middle school student. The robots are offered at a price point to make it possible for each student to program their own. They may be purchased in classroom sets of 15.

**Amount of grant funds requested?**

$4,995.00

**How many students will this project serve?**

300 students per year encompassing 6th, 7th, 8th grade

**What grades are involved in this program?**

6th, 7th, 8th