



Problem Solving with Will and Orv, is a multidisciplinary curriculum for grades 1-3 of standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more that partners the mission of the NAHF with the outstanding and proven educational expertise of PBS/ThinkTV. The program utilizes the Wright Brothers, “Will and Orv”, as informal guides to lessons within the curriculum as they interact with other famous aviation and space leaders experiences for the classroom. educational

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “In an ever-changing, increasingly complex world, it’s more important than ever that our nation’s youth are prepared to bring knowledge and skills to solve problems, make sense of information, and know-how to gather and evaluate evidence to make decisions.” The aviation and aerospace industry has a particular vested interest. Industry leaders have been working for years to find solutions to relieve an ever-growing shortage of trained technical graduates to fill their growing and progressively multifaceted workforce. As educators, employers, and parents across the country explore strategies to fill the technology gap and equip students with the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful innovators in a 21st-century workforce, there has been a growing emphasis on STEAM — the educational discipline that engages students around the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math.

However, attracting young learners into an appreciation for STEAM concepts and pursuing aviation and aerospace careers is not simple. Researchers have found that as children grow into teens, their interest and confidence in math and science often declines, especially among underrepresented groups. A situation exacerbated by the closure of schools and a move to remote learning by many districts nationwide in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Early reports show students in grades K-12 who lack the internet, technology, and support needed to successfully engage in online learning are falling further behind their more affluent peers, widening long-standing achievement gaps.

The NAHF believes that a targeted aviation STEAM based early education program will address a vital gap. *Problem Solving with Will and Orv* combines multiple resources including digital videos and interactives, classroom activities that bring science and history to life, and the invention of powered flight by the Wright Brothers in Dayton, Ohio. In addition, the curriculum folds in components that foster an appreciation of the nation’s extraordinary aviation legacy by honoring the exceptional individuals who led the way. Our goal is for students and educators to attain not only essential STEAM concepts but also a better understanding of the practical wonders of flight and inspiration to participate in incredible future frontiers. ents that spotlight America’s remaining air and space

The NAHF recognizes for a monumental task such as this, there I no better partner than the outstanding and proven educational expertise of PBS.

Delivered through printed classroom curriculum guides, the NAHF website, social media, *PBS Kids* programming, and *PBS Learning Media* the program is designed to support teachers and inspire students both in and outside the classroom.

