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**Contact:**  
**Jennifer Quermann**  
**Butterfly Pavilion**  
**[jquermann@butterflies.org](mailto:jquermann@butterflies.org) | 703-477-0668**

## **Butterfly Pavilion Receives Grants from Xcel Energy to Support Science Education and Pollinator Conservation**

**WESTMINSTER, CO — June 18, 2025** — Butterfly Pavilion has received two impactful grants from Xcel Energy and the Xcel Energy Foundation to support immersive invertebrate-focused science education and advance native pollinator conservation through corporate sustainability initiatives. These grants support Butterfly Pavilion’s nationally recognized K–12 STEM Education Programs and its BEE Sustainable Partners Program, which equips organizations with tools and knowledge to support pollinator-friendly practices.

These grants build on a long-standing partnership between Butterfly Pavilion and Xcel Energy, which includes annual Day of Service volunteer efforts and shared environmental values.

“At Butterfly Pavilion, we believe that collaborative conservation is the key to creating real, lasting change,” said Shartrina White, Vice President of Education at Butterfly Pavilion. “Xcel Energy continues to be a trusted partner in helping us reach more students, engage corporate leaders, and make a measurable impact on ecosystems and communities.”

### **Expanding Access to STEM for Colorado Students**

Xcel Energy’s support will allow Butterfly Pavilion to continue reaching more than 80,000 students annually through field trips, in-classroom outreach, and virtual programming. Using hands-on learning and close encounters with invertebrates, such as butterflies, tarantulas, and sea stars, students build science literacy, develop empathy for often-overlooked species, and discover new paths toward STEM careers.

Butterfly Pavilion prioritizes equity and accessibility through need-based scholarships and collaborations with partners like the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and the Growing Scientists initiative, ensuring all children have access to these meaningful educational experiences.

### **Continuing Commitment to Pollinators and Sustainability**

Xcel Energy is also an active corporate participant in the BEE Sustainable Partners Program, which educates employees and supports sustainable practices that benefit pollinators—like bees, butterflies, and beetles—that are essential to ecosystems and agriculture.

Through this partnership, Xcel Energy employees engage in conservation-focused volunteer efforts and learn practical ways to support native pollinator populations on

corporate campuses and in their communities. The program reflects Butterfly Pavilion's mission to foster environmental stewardship across sectors and empower organizations to lead by example.

### **About Butterfly Pavilion**

Butterfly Pavilion, celebrating its 30th year in 2025, has been part of the Colorado community since 1995 and is the first Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited, stand-alone, non-profit invertebrate zoo in the world, located in Westminster, Colorado. Butterfly Pavilion's mission is to foster an appreciation of invertebrates by educating the public about the need to protect and care for threatened habitats globally, while conducting research for solutions in invertebrate conservation. Beyond Colorado and the United States, Butterfly Pavilion conservationists are doing important invertebrate research, conservation and education projects around the world from Mongolia and Mexico to Tanzania and Sumatra, Indonesia. [www.butterflies.org](http://www.butterflies.org)

### **About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com).

### **About Xcel Energy Foundation**

The Xcel Energy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that awards charitable grants to nonprofit organizations and sponsors the volunteer programs of Xcel Energy and its subsidiaries. The majority of Xcel Energy Foundation funding comes from Xcel Energy shareholder dollars. For more information, visit [corporate.my.xcelenergy.com/community/grants](http://corporate.my.xcelenergy.com/community/grants).

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