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## January 2019 Newsletter

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STEM Advantage and Pivotal Labs host Social Networking Event, January 10, 2019



Photo taken at our Social Networking Event at Pivotal Labs, Santa Monica. Thanks to Kern Wasan and Henry Meller at Pivotal Labs for facilitating the event and Arjen Mckaay of FabFitFun for providing the photo.

On Thursday, January 10, 2019 STEM Advantage hosted a Social Networking Event at Pivotal Labs in Santa Monica. Designed to serve as a place for our scholars to get to know each other, meet with industry professionals, and practice their networking skills, these events also showcase industry partners.

At each event, short lightning talks highlight trends in STEM. Our January 10th event saw lightning talks by Bryan Villagonzalo, a Cal State Long Beach graduate and Product Designer at Pivotal Labs who presented on user design. Rehan Ashroff, Director of the Innovation Lab at Farmers Insurance talked about the work in the Innovation lab and opportunities to connect technology and real life. Henry Meller spoke on Pivotal's work and its wide reach across sectors. After the lightning talks, students and recent graduates have time to talk directly to industry professionals and CIOs during a Q&A session and networking.

Over 100 attended, including 60 STEM Advantage scholars and alumni, members of our Board of Directors, industry professionals, and employees of Pivotal Labs.

STEM Advantage would like to thank Kern Wasan and Henry Meller for facilitating the event at Pivotal Labs, all of the industry professionals who attended and shared insight with our Scholars and Alumni, our Board members who volunteered to serve on the program, and our Scholars and Alumni. Watch for information on our next Social Networking event, to be scheduled in July 2019!

**If your company is interested in hosting our next Social Networking Event at your site headquarters, please contact Lee Ann Kline at 949.322.3320 or at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org) for more information on how to become an Event Host.**

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## Recent Grant Funding Awarded to STEM Advantage

**\$10,000 received to**

## **increase Diversity in the STEM Talent Pipeline!**

We would like to thank SoCalGas for their generous support of our program through a \$10,000 community grant received in December 2018. These funds will allow us to continue to provide scholarships for women and under-represented communities majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) at our partner campuses in the California State University (CSU) including Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Northridge and Cal Poly Pomona, our newest partner!



### **\$10,000 Received from the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation for Organizational Support!**

STEM Advantage received \$10,000 from the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation to provide funds for capacity building of our organization. We now partner with five (5) California State University Campuses in the Greater Los Angeles Region and saw a record number of scholars selected this year (125). We thank the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation for their support!

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### **LA Clippers Joins STEM Advantage Internship Partnership**





Scholars attend Los Angeles Clippers Game. Left to Right, Charles, Allura, Salvador, Tamia, Gabriela

Thanks to Charles Sims, Head of Technology for the LA Clippers, five STEM Advantage Scholars received a behind-the-scenes stadium tour and VIP passes to enjoy a game while talking to Charles and his team for an informal "interview." What an exciting and creative way to get to know the team and what their work environment will be first-hand! Thanks to Charles, Maurice and Brandon for a memorable experience for the students.

Our data show that our internship program is critical for student success; that increased persistence to graduation results from engaged experiences as full-time summer interns. Through post-internship surveys and in-person interviews, our Scholars place the highest value on their summer internship experiences. For many, they state that their experiences are "life-changing."

To provide paid summer internships to our Scholars, please contact **Lee Ann Kline** at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org) or at **949.322.3320**. Majors include computer science, computer technology, information technology, computer information systems, mathematics, and engineering (biochemistry, biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, industrial, and mechanical).



## Save The Date! April 27, 2019

*STEM Advantage is hosting its 7th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser at the California Science Center, Samuel Oschin Space Shuttle Endeavour Pavilion*

Join us on **Saturday, April 27, 2019** as we raise funds to support our [7th Annual Scholarship Drive](#) at the California Science Center! It will be an exciting night under the Space Shuttle Endeavour with Keynote speaker **George L. Pla**, President & Chief Executive Officer of **Cordoba Corporation**. Emcee **Frank Mottek**, Senior Money Anchor on CBS all news station **KNX-1070** will host our program. Presentations by current and alumni Scholars of STEM Advantage will round out our program.

We want to recognize our early **GOLD** Sponsors -Southern California Society for Information Management (**SCSIM**) and **Laserfiche**, along with our early **SILVER** Sponsor Workday.

7th Annual  
Fundraiser

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