

# STEM ADVANTAGE

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH

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## June 2020 Newsletter

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We are honored to help talented students realize their potential and advance equity through education. Congratulations 2020 graduates - we are so proud of you!

### Save the Date!

- Tuesday, August 25, STEM Advantage: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Panel from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM (virtual)
  - Thursday, August 27, STEM Advantage: Advancing Equity through Education Scholarship Gala from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM (virtual)
  - For Sponsorship opportunities, please contact [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org)
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## CLASS OF 2020



*"Thank you to everyone who pushed me and knew I could accomplish this. The struggle is definitely worth it. Like a wise man once told me 'we can't choose how we started but we can choose where we finish. Your future is what you make of it, so make it a good one.'"*

**JONATHAN SMART**

B.S. COMPUTER SCIENCE MINOR: MATHEMATICS

STEM SCHOLAR



**Jonathan** earned a B.S. in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics from Cal State Dominguez Hills. He accepted a position as a Software Engineer for Northrop Grumman.

"STEM Advantage has helped me gain real world experience by assisting me to secure internships. These internships allowed me to meet so many amazing people both in the industry and other students in the program and get the chance to experience actual real-world applications of the foundations I learned in school. I will forever be grateful and so thankful that this program gave me my first chance at success and decided I was worth giving opportunities to. I have seen first-hand that STEM Advantage wants its students to achieve greatness and I know they definitely helped in my journey and I just hope that I continue to make them proud as an Alumnus."

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**Tamia** graduated with a degree in Sociology and Computer Information Systems from Cal State LA. She recently moved to Chicago and is seeking a position that combines data analysis and sociology to address societal issues.

Tamia exemplifies "Be the change you want to see in the world." She is a champion of increasing the number of underrepresented students in STEM fields not only at the collegiate level, but also at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels.

In her application she wrote "I want to be selected for the STEM advantage program because at a very young age, I had this notion instilled in my mind that I wouldn't be able to partake in things involving math and science. At the time, I didn't know it was because of my identities that my teachers and family members already had preconceived hopelessness in my ability to succeed in these areas. It took me joining NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) to find courage in pursuing a degree in STEM. The STEM Advantage program will further my determination and give me motivation for what I can accomplish."

People describe Tamia as "a kind, decent, humble, compassionate, empathetic and brilliant young woman who is thoroughly committed to pursuing a career serving marginalized communities in whatever capacity she finds herself in." We are inspired by Tamia's purpose and know she is going to make a difference.



**Alexis** earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology at Cal State LA. At 17 years old, she is one of the youngest graduates in the university's Class of 2020. She accepted a position as a Design Engineer for HVAC systems for ACCO Engineered Systems, where she was an intern for two summers.

Alexis dreams of building cities of the future, where sustainable design helps create a healthy, productive environment. "Through innovative design and sustainable engineering, I can help make the world a better place or help improve people's lives." Her ambition is to design energy-efficient buildings to make cities and communities more sustainable. With climate change and global warming, she believes she has a responsibility to use her design skills to help raise awareness about energy conservation and other environmental issues. She is considering applying to graduate school to pursue a master's degree in engineering with a focus on sustainable design.

"Thank you so much for all of your help to get me to this point of graduation."

STEM Advantage is a proven pipeline for diverse STEM talent. 100% of your tax-deductible gift goes directly to fund scholarships to help low-income students graduate with less debt.

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For more information, please contact [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org)

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