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## March 2020 Newsletter

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We hope you, your family and friends are safe and healthy during this unprecedented global health crisis. As all of us try to navigate these uncertain times, there is one thing that we could not be more certain of; our STEM Advantage Scholars need our support more than ever.

Our mission has always been to help "level the playing field" for women and underserved communities as they pursue their STEM education and careers. Unfortunately, these students, who are most disadvantaged when it comes to financial and mentor support, make up the population that have been, and will continue to be, the most severely impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic. These are students who are reliant on hourly wages, part-time jobs, and internships (many have been cancelled) to support their education.

Our scholarships could be the difference for scholars to continue, or not continue, their education. As a result of the ongoing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, we have moved our annual scholarship gala to Saturday, August 22, 2020.

While we recognize that for the unforeseeable future, each and every one of us are managing shifting priorities, STEM Advantage is committed to helping our scholars in this time of need.

Stay well and healthy.

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. -- Margaret Mead

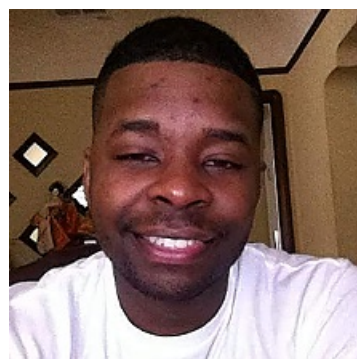
Thank you for your continued support to help talented students like Alley, Jimar and Juliana.



**Alley** is majoring in Computer Science at Cal State Fullerton. Like many students in our program, Alley is a low-income, first-generation Latina.

"Since freshman year of high school, computer science has allowed me to use creativity and pragmatism to become an extraordinary critical thinker - both in code and real life. I paint beautiful lines of code to shape my world because I realize there are no "unsolvable problems." I want to be a part of creating the future.

In the future, I plan to start my own Computer Science company with peers I will meet in the next 3 years. I plan to team up with bioengineers, doctors, mechanical engineers, and electrical engineers to develop products that will benefit the differently abled. I believe we can use technology to facilitate access to the medical system. I plan to develop robots that will be able to diagnose patients, make a line of genetically-made organs that can be monitored using an app, and a line of home products to allow blind and deaf people to maneuver around their homes."



**Jimar** is earning a bachelor's degree in Computer Technology with a focus on Homeland Security at Cal State Dominguez Hills. He is a hard working, determined individual. Upon graduation, he will be the first male in his family to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

"When I was younger, I wasn't really aware of all the things you can do in the technology-related field and many of the kids I tutor now aren't either. I'm motivated to succeed and a

natural leader who likes to help people. I currently tutor and there aren't many things that feel better than breaking through to a young person who thinks that people have given up on them."

"Joining the STEM Advantage program was the best decision I made, besides returning to school!"



**Juliana** is majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Cal State LA. As a first-generation student from a low-income family, Juliana confronts more complex obstacles than many others. In addition to being a full-time student, she helps her parents and is a role model for her younger brother.

"I plan to 'pay it forward' by advocating for an increase of minority students in STEM, in particular, an increase in women. As a Latina from the San Fernando Valley, it is not common for us Latinos to pursue higher education, especially in the STEM field. And as a woman, it is even more scarce for a chance to enter the STEM field. As an aspiring engineer, I intend to use my experience to set an example to others and offer my advice to encourage and motivate other generations of lower-income students to pursue a career in STEM. Whether it be through my story or simple advice on what classes to take, I hope to help others to follow their dreams."

### Be a Mentor or Provide an Internship

The majority of STEM Advantage Scholars are low-income, first generation college students. Having a mentor makes a difference. To be a mentor, contact [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org)

Many internship programs are cancelled or paused due to COVID-19. If you can provide an internship to help students gain real-world experience, please contact [cindy@stemadvantage.org](mailto:cindy@stemadvantage.org)

STEM Advantage is a proven pipeline for diverse STEM talent. 100% of your tax-deductible gift goes directly to fund STEM Advantage Scholarships.

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

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