



May 2020 Newsletter

Congratulations Class of 2020! We are celebrating 60 remarkable STEM Advantage Scholars who graduated this month. We are honored to have played a role in helping them earn a degree and graduate with less debt. Thank YOU for making a difference by providing internships, being a mentor, participating in professional development workshops, and donating to fund scholarships.

Now, let's work together and help them launch their careers. This is not the job market they - or we - imagined they would face after working incredibly hard and often against all odds to earn a STEM degree. If you, or someone you know, has job openings for entry level STEM talent, please contact leann@stemadvantage.org

A few of their stories...



Lia graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Technology with a focus on Homeland Security at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

"STEM Advantage has been integral in helping my path as a Security Specialist. It has provided me with educational opportunities, networking opportunities, and financial opportunities which I could have never created on my own. I have made lasting friendships and professional connections due to STEM Advantage. It has provided me with professional insight and training opportunities, resume reviews and interview techniques, as well as connected me with job opportunities; including my current internship.

As a first generation college graduate, and a woman who had to put myself through college while supporting myself and my partner, the road to get here was not easy; but thanks to the help of STEM Advantage, I feel like I am no longer limited - nothing can hold me back now. I am free to pursue my dreams!

Once I get established, I plan on giving back to STEM Advantage in any way I can. I cannot thank you enough."



Diego earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Technology with a focus on Homeland Security at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

"I survived because the fire in me burned brighter than the fire around me"

"Throughout my journey at CSUDH, I had plenty of help from Stem Advantage that motivated and pushed me towards the right path. One thing that meant the most to me was having the opportunity to work at Kinecta Federal Credit Union during the summer of 2019 as an IT User

Specialist. It was very thrilling and I gained many insights, especially when it came to professionalism.

Stem Advantage supported me financially and I appreciated that the most. Unfortunately, my family could not pay for my education and because of that, I had to support myself by working full-time and attending school full-time. I am glad that at last I have accomplished my goal but have not ended my journey at CSUDH. I will be attending CSUDH in the fall of 2020 for the Master's program in Cybersecurity.

I currently do not have a job lined up. I am open to new positions and will only be attending classes on Saturday and Sunday. Once again, thank you STEM Advantage."



Jizzelle earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a Minor in Computer Science at Cal State Fullerton.

Jizzelle is open to a range of industries and opportunities where she can apply her knowledge of product design, fabrication, assembly, tooling and materials in the manufacturing process. Plus, she is interested in combining her mechanical engineering and computer science skills to design, test, build and automate robots.



Haydon is an Electrical Engineering major at Cal State Long Beach. He'll graduate after one final class this summer.

"STEM Advantage has truly been a blessing during my undergrad years. Without STEM Advantage, I don't think that I would've been as confident as I am now to take on life after college. In a way, STEM Advantage made my "dreams come true" because I would have never imagined having the opportunity of interning for companies such as Universal Studios and Warner Bros. without their help.

I believe that I can graduate knowing that my resume and experiences were heightened due to the hardworking members of STEM Advantage and the people that I have met through them during my undergrad years. I can only hope to give back one day so that students that were once in my position can feel more readily prepared in the future!"

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 22

On Saturday evening, August 22nd, we will host a virtual gala to celebrate our scholars and raise funds for STEM Advantage Scholarships to help women and underserved communities stay in school, finish their degree, and graduate with less debt. The low-income, first-generation college students we serve are the most vulnerable during this time. The economic gap will get even wider if we - collectively - do not help these students. More details to come in our June newsletter.

For Sponsorship opportunities, please contact Melanie_Hildebrandt@spe.sony.com

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. For more information, please contact leann@stemadvantage.org

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