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## October 2019 Newsletter

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### Workforce of the Future Panel & Networking Event

On October 24, we held a very successful panel and networking event on the Sony Pictures lot that is sure to become an annual event. Our panelists provided insight into the war on talent, the business case for diversity and inclusiveness, how leaders can support five generations of talent with different work styles and motivations for individual growth and team success, and the impact of AI, machine learning and robotics on the workforce. We had a stellar panel:

- Theresa Miller, CIO, Lionsgate Entertainment
- Charles Sims, Head of Technology, LA Clippers
- Paul Martin, SVP, Diversity & Inclusion, Sony Pictures Entertainment
- Sherrie Schwartz, Head of Human Resources, Creative Artists Agency (CAA)
- Chuck Gustafson, SVP, Engineering & Technology, The Aerospace Corporation
- Alejandra Soto, STEM Advantage Alumna and Software Engineer, Farmers
- Stephanie Barrymore, Technology Practice, GALLUP (Moderator)

We are grateful to our sponsors: Amazon Web Services (AWS), Deloitte, Delphix, Infor, Simeio, Magenic, RingCentral, Okta, Teradata, Point B, Snowflake, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with shout outs to Dynatrace and CDW.

A very special thank you to Event Chair Melanie Hildebrandt, Event Producer Kara Jenkins and the entire program committee for a fantastic event! Proceeds fund STEM Advantage Scholarships.

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**Save the Date! Saturday, June 6, 2020**

**Annual Scholarship Gala @ Sony Pictures lot**

For sponsorship information, please contact [Melanie Hildebrandt](#)

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### Meet Savannah

Savannah is a Civil Engineering major at Cal State Long Beach. She had a summer internship working for Penta Building Group, where she had an "amazing experience" and learned much. She wanted direct experience with project management and got that experience as she was on job sites learning firsthand what it takes to become a Project Manager.

Savannah's STEM Advantage mentor Jessica Landon is a Senior Construction Manager at Cordoba Corporation. She has been an outstanding mentor to Savannah and introduced her to a professional industry group the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), which provides opportunities and benefits to Savannah as she earns her degree and prepares to launch her career.



### Meet Charles

Charles (far right in photo above) is a Computer Science major at Cal Poly Pomona. This summer he had an internship at Farmers & Merchants Bank, where he had the privilege of working with multiple, diverse teams on many fulfilling projects. One of these projects included developing a web application that was then published on the Farmers & Merchants website. Another fulfilling aspect of Charles' internship was gaining experience diagnosing, troubleshooting, and resolving hardware- and software-related issues.

Charles is an exemplary student and role model. Tony Cox, a technology manager at Farmers & Merchants Bank, is a STEM Advantage mentor and a mentor for the Samueli Academy Cyberpatriot team. Tony invited his students to attend Cal Poly Pomona's 2019 Cyber Security Awareness Fair on October 24th, which showcases the work students are doing in the field of cyber security and presentations from industry leaders. These high schools students met with Charles, who discussed his journey and decision to go into a STEM program. He graciously spent time with all of the students, asked them questions, answered all of their questions and provided very useful insights. It's one thing for professionals in the field to tell students about the opportunities available in STEM; it is much more impactful when they can interact with someone like Charles. Thank you Charles for Paying it forward!

### How can you get involved?

- Provide a paid internship
- Be a mentor
- Fund a scholarship
- Hire recent graduates

Contact Lee Ann Kline at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org) or Cindy McKenzie at [cindy@stemadvantage.org](mailto:cindy@stemadvantage.org)

We offer the STEM Advantage program to talented STEM students at Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State LA, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Northridge and Cal Poly Pomona. The majority of these women and underserved communities are low income, first generation college students. Your support helps them achieve their dreams and realize their potential.

**To invest in STEM Advantage Scholars and help students graduate with less college debt...**

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STEM Advantage is a proven pipeline for vetted diverse STEM talent. For more information, please contact [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org)

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