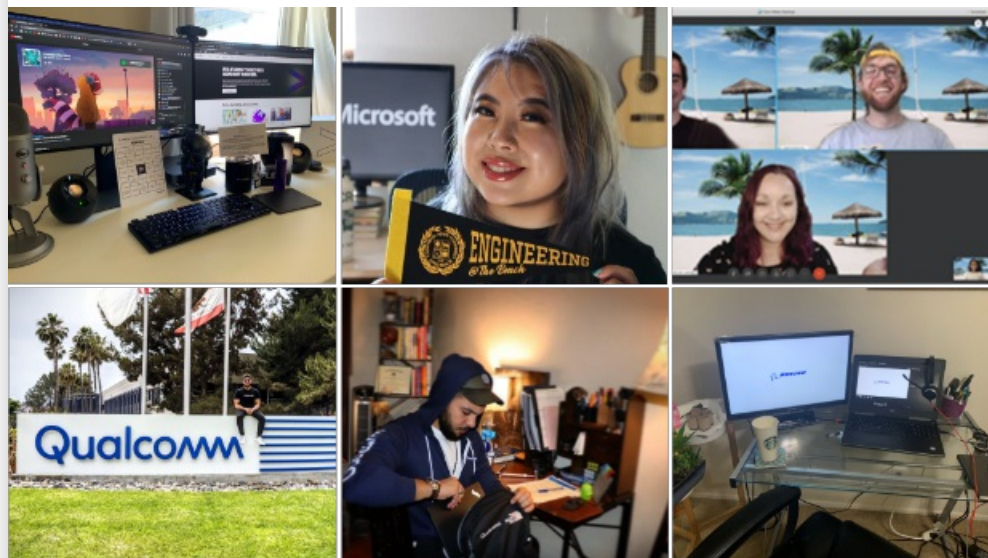


STEM ADVANTAGE

ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION

October 2020 Newsletter



Summer Internships

Thanks to creativity and teamwork, many companies provided meaningful learning experiences for students during their virtual internships. If you can provide Summer 2021 internships, please contact Cindy at cindy@stemadvantage.org

"Internships are a great way to test the waters and get introduced to industry work. I'm glad I tried something out of my comfort zone. Now I have more clarity with which direction I want to take with my career. Without the initial push from STEM Advantage, this would not have been possible. I would like to thank the program for this opportunity and seeing the potential in me!"

- Britney, Mechanical Engineering major at Cal State LA

Here are the 2 most important lessons I learned this summer:

1. **Fail fast. Fail hard.** - This is easier said than done. Being a perfectionist, I treaded lightly because I was afraid of making mistakes but once I stopped holding back, I grew exponentially. I learned the importance of having a growth mindset and instead of dwelling on what I didn't know, I accepted humility and was determined to seek out answers. This allowed me to unapologetically be myself, network with people I wouldn't have otherwise met, and gain confidence in my own capabilities.

2. **"A strong woman stands up for herself. A stronger woman stands up for everyone else."** - This was a hard lesson to learn because I wasn't used to taking on the leadership role. Through my experience working in a diverse team, I learned that the true essence of a leader is comprised of empathy, inspiration, and most importantly, kindness. Understanding and getting to know the people you work with is the key to an effective team.

- Kelly, Computer Science major at Cal State Long Beach

Get Involved



YOU can get involved and make a difference for talented women and underserved communities:

- Provide an internship
- Be a mentor
- Fund a scholarship
- Hire a graduate

Sonia Henry, a Director at The Aerospace Corporation, was featured in Aerospace Cares.
Photo: Sonia with STEM Advantage Scholars - now alumnae - Antonella and Rubi.

"Growing up, I did not have any STEM role models," said Henry. "When I started at CSU Long Beach, I felt like a goldfish taken out of a fishbowl and dropped into an ocean. I was often the only or one of few Black and/or female students in my classes—especially engineering classes. What helped me thrive was an organization on campus, the Minority Engineering Program, which was similar to STEM Advantage in that it provided a sense of community, tutoring, mentoring, scholarships, and internships to help students from underserved communities thrive."

In the summer of 2016, Henry had the privilege of mentoring STEM Advantage Scholars Rubi Mora and Antonella Pinola when the Acquisition Support and Information Department in the Systems Engineering Division hosted them as interns. In fact, Pinola was later converted to Associate MTS in August 2018, and continues to work on the team today. Henry also had the opportunity to mentor another STEM Advantage Scholar, Erica Tinsley, who worked as an Aerospace employee for a time. Karina Martinez is also a STEM Advantage Scholar alumna and is currently an MTS in the Information Systems & Cyber Division.

"*Pay It Forward* is one of my favorite movies and a personal mantra of mine," Henry said. "The work of STEM Advantage embodies 'paying it forward' by continuing to support women, minorities, and veterans attending CSU schools with opportunities to succeed in STEM."

Thanks Sonia and The Aerospace Corporation for your partnership.

To get involved please contact Lee Ann at leeann@stemadvantage.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, December 9th

11:45 am to 1:00 pm (virtual)



Hear from senior executives and STEM Advantage Alumni about the evolving workforce, including how to attract and retain diverse talent.

To be a sponsor, please contact Lee Ann at 949.322.3320 or leeann@stemadvantage.org

STEM Advantage is a proven pipeline for diverse STEM talent. 100% of your tax-deductible gift funds scholarships for low-income, first-generation college students attending California State University (CSU).

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For more information, please contact leeann@stemadvantage.org

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