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# STEM

## ADVANTAGE

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH

### April 2019 Newsletter



### 2019 STEM Advantage Scholarship Gala a Success

On April 27th, STEM Advantage celebrated the accomplishments of students and recognized scholarship donors at the 7th Annual Scholarship Gala. The event was held at the California Science Center, Samuel Oschin Space Shuttle Endeavour Pavilion. Thanks to generous sponsors and donors, we raised over \$200,000 for scholarships to help STEM scholars attend classes full-time and graduate with less debt.

Frank Mottek, Senior Money Anchor on CBS all-news station KNX-1070 Newsradio and host of "Mottek on Money" was our emcee. Roberto Ramirez, Senior Project Manager at Cordoba Corporation, shared the story and video of the historic transport of the Space Shuttle Endeavour through the cities of Inglewood and Los Angeles between LAX and its ultimate home at the California Science Center. Valerie Alexander led us through some fun brain exercises to drive home the need for greater inclusion and diversity.

Special thanks to STEM Advantage Scholars Savannah, Rubi and MaryLiza for sharing their stories. Our scholars and alumni are the best ambassadors for our program and the inspiration for everything we do to help women and under-served communities realize their potential.

Here's a link to fun photos from the evening:

**<https://gallery.snapyourself.c...>**

If you were not able to join us and would like to invest in STEM Advantage  
Scholars

Text **STEM** to **91999**.



### **Student profile – MaryLiza Walker**

STEM Advantage Alumna MaryLiza Walker (pictured above with Rubi Mora, far left, and Valerie Alexander, in center) graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills, in May 2018, with a bachelor's degree in Computer Technology with a focus on Homeland Security. Today, she is an Information Technology Security Specialist for the Air Force Civilian Service.

[An excerpt from the story she shared at our 2019 Scholarship Gala ...](#)

“...through my STEM Advantage internship, I was able to connect the knowledge that I was learning with real world application and who would have thought I knew so much. They told me to just be myself and everything will fall into place. There they taught me to not hold myself in a bubble and that I can reach any goal that I want if I just work hard at it. Right now I’m applying for my Master’s in Cyber Security, so let’s hope your girl gets in, but for real because of people like you, your mentorship, the job opportunities and financial support I will not only be making my dreams come true but I’ll be working to make all of y’all lives safer.

Without STEM Advantage I wouldn’t be here, and this field needs me because not only do I look different from others who do this, I think differently and without diversity of thought we can’t solve the security problems for tomorrow. With that being said, thank you ...for believing in me that day. You guys work so hard, you will never understand how much it changed my life. I also want to say thank you to everybody in the room that has ever opened or will be opening their hearts and checkbooks to support STEM Advantage. Thanks everyone, I look forward to saving your assets someday.”

To provide an internship or be a mentor for students like MaryLiza, please contact **Lee Ann Kline** at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org).





## **ISACA LA "SheLeadsTech" Event**

On April 3rd, STEM Advantage Scholars were invited to participate in ISACA LA's "SheLeadsTech" event at Cal State LA. Diversity in the technology workforce continues to be a societal concern and a major workforce problem, given the critical shortage of skilled technology professionals faced by many enterprises. The evening elevated awareness and inclusion in the profession through networking, inspirational industry leader diversity & inclusion stories and each panelist's leadership journey, and breakout sessions, including talent pipeline challenges and retaining top talent.

Special thank you to Patricia Benoit, Senior Manager & Adviser – Risk and Compliance at Southern California Edison, for inviting STEM Advantage to be a partner for this special evening and our women Scholars to attend and participate in this important discussion.



**To support our Scholars and provide funding for scholarships, please use button below to donate.**

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