

STEM

A D V A N T A G E

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH

May 2019 Newsletter



Congratulations STEM Advantage Graduates!

Congratulations to our STEM Advantage Scholars who recently graduated from Cal State LA, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Long Beach, and Cal State Northridge.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and partners, STEM Advantage Scholars graduated with less student debt. Plus, they had paid internships that prepared them for their first job upon graduation and mentors who provided coaching and support. As many companies view internships as a pipeline for entry level talent, many Scholars received full-time offers from the companies where they interned.

These talented graduates are well positioned to launch their careers and be role models and mentors as they "pay it forward".

Here are photos from a few graduates. (L to R)

- Veronica earned a B.S. in Computer Information Systems at Cal State LA. She joined Sony Pictures Entertainment as an IT Business Analyst.
- Alejandra earned a B.S. in Computer Science at Cal State Northridge. She joined Farmers Insurance as a Software Engineer.
- Karina earned a B.S. in Computer Science at Cal State LA. She joined The Aerospace Corporation as a Software Engineer.
- Eduardo (Lalo) earned a B.S. in Computer Science at Cal State LA. He joined Farmers Insurance as a Software Developer.



Alumna profile: Rubi

STEM Advantage Alumna Rubi graduated from Cal State LA with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Today she is a System Safety Engineer at General Motors.

Rubi is an inspiration and role model to many young girls.

"I grew up in a town called Santa Ana Tecolapa in Puebla, Mexico. Since I was about 7 years old, I already knew that I liked math and science. The dark skies in my town allowed me to wonder and be curious about the world out there beyond the earth's atmosphere. I used to picture myself fixing spacecraft and going on space adventures. As I got older, I knew deep within me that I wanted to work for NASA because I wanted to work on spacecraft and rockets and that someday somehow, I would get there. At age 16, I moved to the United States to

pursue that dream. I started attending Cal State LA in 2013."

Rubi had internships at SpaceX, The Aerospace Corporation, and "my last internship was working as an engineering intern developing the new generation of Space Shuttle Main Engines with Aerojet Rocketdyne. This is where I finally learned that I belonged, that I could really make it as an engineer. During this internship, I was able to observe that, just like me, my male intern co-workers from other, higher ranking schools, were there, at their desks learning the content and tools for the job. They didn't have some magic secret advantage over me. One thing I knew is that I could learn, therefore I could do it, and realized that I shouldn't shy away from anything I wanted to pursue."



Scholar profile: Marcus

Marcus is a Computer Science major at Cal State Dominguez Hills with an expected graduation date of May 2020.

Marcus is interested in gaming and the entertainment industry. This summer, he has a summer internship in the IT organization at Warner Bros.

"Throughout college I have seen 2 to 3 other African Americans in my field and it is so depressing and a bit alienating. The personality I have can't be categorized as "black" or "white" because I am mixed with both and I am just me, Marcus. All my life I have dealt with stigma that I act to "white" or that I am "white-washed". I've had to accept myself as a mixed person who acts the way I love and I had to start loving the way I am and it is not dependent on race.

Since there aren't many minorities in the STEM fields the mission for the STEM Advantage program really resonated with me and my experiences. The STEM Advantage program is an amazing program and I know I could do great in any company I'm placed in."

To invest in STEM Advantage Scholars and fund scholarships for students to graduate with less debt, please donate now...

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You can learn more about our Scholars at www.stemadvantage.org and by following us on social media. For more information, please contact leeann@stemadvantage.org



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