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## October 2021 Newsletter

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### Make a Difference by Being a Mentor

In December we will pair each STEM Advantage Scholar in our new 2022 cohort with a mentor.

**Mentors make a difference** as 70% of our Scholars are first-generation college students. A young person thrives when they know someone cares about their future and they receive guidance about educational and career options.

Mentors provide a **vital role** in the success of STEM Advantage Scholars, providing a role model of a successful STEM professional, as well as:

- Providing personal support, guidance, and coaching
- Sharing the lifelong benefits of higher education and a STEM career
- Helping students with soft skills and telling their story
- Being a trusted advocate for questions related to school, work, and life.

Mentors commit to meet with their mentee for one hour, once a month, for one year, or 30 minutes every other week via video or in person.

Plus, we will need mentors for mentoring circles, which are part of our new Freshmen STEM Career Pathways program.

To be a mentor, please contact Tania at [tania@stemadvantage.org](mailto:tania@stemadvantage.org)

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### Mentors Make a Difference!

"I've mentored 4 STEM Advantage scholars over the past 5 years and am currently mentoring a new scholar. The biggest contribution we can make is to be there for the students, to help them think through things and really be an active listener and sounding board. Once I am matched with a student, I study up on their submission packet and like to setup a meet and greet as soon as possible. Mentorship to me is a two-way street where we learn from each other. I like to meet in person (currently by video or phone) at least once a month. And I like to keep the mentorship open to any and all topics that they might need support with. Everything from setting up meetings with senior executives who can give them pointers, to helping them come up with questions to ask prospective employers during interviews."

Shawna Gale, Senior Strategist, NIT Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco



"My mentee Charles and I have become great friends. We've met several times for coffee and croissants and attended events together. While we've shared much together, I believe my greatest contributions to him have been to give him support and encouragement, and to provide professional guidance on a range of subjects, including interview preparation and performance, early career vision and developing a professional brand."

Kevin Gray, CIO, City of Burbank



To be a mentor, please contact Tania at [tania@stemadvantage.org](mailto:tania@stemadvantage.org)

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### Careers in Cybersecurity Panel

STEM Advantage was honored to participate in Cal State Fullerton's Cybersecurity Awareness event on October 8 during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. STEM Advantage Board member Thomas Phelps moderated a "Careers in Cybersecurity" panel that featured STEM Advantage alumnae along with representatives from Deloitte's Cyber Risk practice and the FBI's Cyber Task Force. Special thank you to our representatives:

- Thomas Phelps, VP of Corporate Strategy & CIO at Laserfiche and STEM Advantage Board of Directors
- Danielle Yamane, Information Security Engineer at The Trade Desk and STEM Advantage alumna. Danielle represents our Scholars & Alumni on our Board of Directors.
- Mariel Trajano, Information Security Analyst at Laserfiche and STEM Advantage alumna



If you can provide **internships and/or hire entry-level talent** in cybersecurity, information security, or any STEM-related field, please contact Lee Ann at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org)

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### Los Angeles Business Journal honored STEM Advantage as Diversity, Inclusion + Equity Nonprofit of the Year

Talent is equally distributed, but opportunity is not. STEM Advantage mentors, prepares, and inspires women and underserved communities to pursue STEM careers. We provide economic and social mobility to underserved groups, while providing a vetted pipeline of diverse talent to corporate partners. 100% of your tax-deductible gift funds STEM Advantage Scholars, who are mostly low-income, first-generation college students, attending California State University (CSU), the *largest and most ethnically diverse four-year public university system in the nation*.

For more information and to discuss partnerships for new and existing programs, please contact Lee Ann Kline, President & Founder at 949.322.3320 or [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org) and visit our website <http://www.stemadvantage.org>

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Please consider investing in STEM Advantage Scholars and follow us on social media!

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