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STEM ADVANTAGE

ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION

August 2022 Newsletter

Celebrating 10 Years!

Thank you to everyone who joined our 10th Anniversary Scholarship Gala on August 27 at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Thank you to our emcee **Frank Mottek**, our Scholar and Alumni speakers **Alejandra, Danielle, Evelyn, and Masar**, who inspired us with their stories, and **Champions for Change Honoree Farmers Insurance**.



We Thank Our Generous Sponsors



Congratulations Maria!



Maria Medina graduated in May with a B.S. in Computer Science from Cal State Fullerton and joined KPMG as a Technology Risk Management Advisory Associate! Maria shared her story at last year's Gala.

"I am incredibly grateful and lucky to have the support of STEM Advantage. I was only looking for a scholarship to afford my 5th year at CSUF as a recipient of the CA Dream Act, but thanks to this program I got the funds for it and so much more! As undocumented and first gen I didn't know the importance of a mentor or social networking. Thanks to STEM Advantage, their connections and support system, I got the support and push I needed to intern with Disney, graduate with honors (cum laude), and I get the opportunity to return from Europe to work with KPMG as a consultant."

Maria plans to stay actively engaged with STEM Advantage as part of our alumni program and help future students. Congratulations Maria - we are incredibly proud of you!

Our Team Is Growing!



Jasmyn Masters-Culpepper serves STEM Advantage's scholars and stakeholders as the **Program Manager for Internships and Career Placement**.

As a Los Angeles native, Jasmyn lives by the motto "I am my brothers' and sisters' keeper!". She believes that college is a possibility for everyone no matter their background. Jasmyn strives to create amazing relationships with Scholars and loves that she can continue building these relationships while supporting STEM Advantage Scholars.

Before joining STEM Advantage, Jasmyn worked as a Career Coach for Core and Law Career Pathways at Thrive Scholars, providing Scholars with the tools needed to secure internships and full-time job opportunities in industry leading companies. Jasmyn also worked for the Posse Foundation for over six years as a Trainer and Career Program Manager. Jasmyn brings over 9 years of experience building relationships with youth while managing academic and career success program in non-profit and higher education settings. Jasmyn holds dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Child Development and Family Studies and Family Life Education from California State University, Long Beach. In her spare time, Jasmyn loves to test out new recipes, bowling, bike riding along the beach, and playing card games with family and friends.



We are pleased to welcome **Arlene Semwezi** to our **Board of Directors**.

Arlene is the Agile PMO Director at Farmers Insurance for the Personal Lines IT department. In this role she oversees the transformation to the SAFe delivery model as well as the day-to-day operations for the Personal Lines IT department. Arlene has an extensive background in Information Technology, spanning over 15 years.

Arlene started her career as a consultant working for Ernest & Young and later for Caggemini and in 2013 joined Farmers Insurance. Over the years she has specialized in a number of roles ranging from Business Analyst, Requirements Manager, Test Manager, PMO Consultant and Project/Program Manager. Her areas of expertise include Governance, Organizational Change Management based on the Prosci ADKAR® Model and software development frameworks, specializing in the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), Rational Unified Process (RUP), and company specific Software Development Frameworks. Arlene has a passion for service and

building future talent, she helped launch a more robust IT intern program at Farmers Insurance and expand the footprint to include students from STEM Advantage.



We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Emily Allen** to our **Advisory Board**. **Dr. Allen** is Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology at California State University, Los Angeles, where she created the Acceleration Initiative, comprised of a series of outreach and early career undergraduate programs to ensure students are well-prepared for their studies and have available all the necessary support to achieve academic and professional success.

Under her leadership the College launched the donor-funded Sikand Center for Sustainable and InTelligent Infrastructure (SITI-Center), a research unit devoted to bringing faculty, students, and private and public sector entities together to work on sustainable solutions for Los Angeles and beyond.

Dr. Allen previously served San José State University as Associate Dean, Chair and faculty in Materials Engineering. She earned her BS in Metallurgy and Materials Science from Columbia University, and her MS and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from Stanford University. She started her technical career as a welder, then attended community college before entering a four-year engineering program. Dr. Allen chaired the ASEE Engineering Deans Council Diversity Committee, where she led the operationalization of the Deans Diversity Recognition Program. She serves as an ABET EAC commissioner, chaired the ABET Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and serves on the Board of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Invest in Diverse STEM Talent

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 businesses to fill their workforce needs. In 2021, Los Angeles Business Journal honored STEM Advantage as Diversity, Inclusion + Equity Nonprofit of the Year!

100% of your tax-deductible gift supports STEM Advantage Scholars Thank you for making an investment that is changing lives.

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STEM Advantage
117 22nd Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648 - USA