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## June 2024 Newsletter

### Important Dates

**June, July & August** - Summer Career Program

**September 6, 2024** - STEM Advantage Scholarship Gala

### June Recap

STEM Advantage alumna Emily Villalba was honored as "NextGen Woman of the Year". Plus, we are sharing more graduation photos and how your support made a difference!

### STEM Advantage Alumna Honored

Congratulations to alumna **Emily Villalba** on being honored at the **Los Angeles Business Journal's Women's Leadership Awards** as "**NextGen Woman of the Year**"! This award recognizes women from graduate students to young rising star business professionals. In addition, Emily was a panelist for the "Women Embracing Tech & Innovation" panel during the morning Symposium.

Emily is a Software Engineer at Sony Pictures Entertainment. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. in Computer Science. She is an inspiration and role model already with a very bright future. We are so proud of her!



### Congratulations to Our Graduates

Over 150 STEM Advantage Scholars celebrated a significant milestone - earning a bachelor's degree in a STEM field! We are incredibly proud of these talented students, primarily first-generation college students from low-income families. Thank YOU for supporting our scholars by providing internships, hiring new graduates, being a mentor, funding scholarships, being on a career panel, and hosting in-person events to build community and belonging. Sharing a few photos and how your support made a difference...



Alexander, B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Cal State LA; Zainab, B.S. Computer Science, Cal State LA; Alac, B.S. Computer Science, Cal State San Marcos

"Joining STEM Advantage was a large part of my development as a Computer Science undergraduate. I was able to rely on my mentor for guidance during some pivotal moments in my college career and I was also able to ask Alumni for help during the interview process of an internship that I ended up getting. As I continue on to be a consultant at Accenture post-grad, I can say it was majorly through the help and support of STEM Advantage."

- Zainab



Kayla, B.S. Computer Science, Cal Poly Pomona; Abraham, B.S. Electrical Engineering, Cal State LA

"Being a first-generation college student who started my degree during the pandemic, I felt lost in navigating college and career opportunities. The mentorship, network, and resources provided through this program have helped immensely in getting me ready for my college to career transition. I'm extremely grateful that I had a team to support me through applying, interviewing, and making the most of my research positions and my internship with JPL throughout college."

- Kayla



Jordan, B.S. Computer Science, Cal State Long Beach; Alley, B.S. Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems, Cal State Fullerton; Michael, B.S. Mathematics, Cal State Northridge

"As a first-generation low-income college student, STEM Advantage has provided endless career development and networking resources, allowing me to land Software Engineering internships at The Walt Disney Company and achieve much more."

- Jordan



Jacob, B.S. Computer Science, Cal State LA; Taylor, B.S. Computer Science, Cal State Fullerton

"STEM Advantage has been a resourceful foundation that allowed me to meet wonderful people, work on my professional development, and gain insight from a very passionate and knowledgeable mentor. Although I was only involved for a single year, the STEM Advantage team made me feel very welcome, and continued to provide opportunities every chance they could.

Now that I've graduated, I will be working on a Pipelining Cancer Research Project through UCLA Health, and returning to school for my Master's in Computer Science. I hope to continue reaching new heights this year in hopes to find the right area of

work for me."

- Jacob



Eddy, B.S. Computer Information Systems, Cal State LA; Angela, B.S. Computer Science, Cal State Fullerton; Jason, B.S. Computer Science, Cal Poly Pomona

"I would like to thank STEM Advantage and the entire team for accepting me into the program and continuously supporting me throughout my education and career. I've had the pleasure of meeting new people from various companies and organizations, which has been instrumental in advancing my career as I transition from education to the workforce.

The info sessions hosted by the organization were always insightful, and it was incredibly valuable that the keynote speakers were willing to engage with us members and alumni afterward. This was made possible through STEM Advantage's successful collaboration with these companies. Without the program's help, I wouldn't have been able to connect with major companies and meet people like myself—first-generation Latinos with STEM backgrounds who have inspiring success stories and are now giving back to other students from similar backgrounds.

I hope to maintain my relationship with STEM Advantage as an alumnus and give back by sharing my knowledge. I want to let other students know that it's possible to achieve seemingly impossible milestones with a little help. I also hope to be a guest speaker at one of these info sessions in the future.

I am forever grateful to the program!"

- Eddy

### Seeking Internships & Early Career Jobs

Please help us help talented first-generation college students. If you, or someone you know, offers paid internships and/or hires new graduates, please contact Jasmyn at [jasmyn@stemadvantage.org](mailto:jasmyn@stemadvantage.org) or Beatriz at [beatriz@stemadvantage.org](mailto:beatriz@stemadvantage.org)

### Save the Date!

12th Annual STEM Advantage Scholarship Gala

Friday evening, September 6, 2024

@ Skirball Cultural Center

For Sponsorship information, contact Lee Ann at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org)

### Invest in STEM Talent

Talent is equally distributed, but opportunity is not. STEM Advantage mentors, prepares, and inspires women and underserved communities, primarily first-generation college students from low-income families, for STEM careers empowering economic and social mobility, while providing a vetted pipeline of diverse talent to businesses to fill their workforce needs.

Thank you for making an investment that is changing lives!

DONATE NOW

To learn more and get involved, contact Lee Ann Kline at [leeann@stemadvantage.org](mailto:leeann@stemadvantage.org), visit our website <http://www.stemadvantage.org>, and follow us on social media.



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