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## December 2024 Newsletter

Happy Holidays!

### Meet Roxana



"STEM Advantage has been a great resource and backbone to my successes this year. I am Roxana Cruz, a junior at Cal State LA, studying Computer Science. Whether it was the countless professional development workshops I attended or the network I gained, I have seen significant improvements in both my work and myself.

This past summer, I had the incredible opportunity to intern at Salesforce in San Francisco, where I worked and lived with a fellow STEM Advantage student from Cal Poly Pomona. During the summer, I also participated in conference preparedness workshops led by Jasmyn and Beatriz, which were conveniently scheduled after my work hours.

When my internship ended, and I returned to Los Angeles to start my fall semester, I was immediately faced with a surge of assignments and responsibilities. I am very proactive at my university—I serve as Vice President of my school's SHPE chapter and am an intern at Microsoft for the fall semester. Additionally, I am a proud first-generation student from a marginalized community. Growing up, I didn't have many role models or mentors around me.

Joining STEM Advantage last year exposed me to spaces filled with professionals who looked like me and shared similar backgrounds and struggles. I remember attending a Women in Technology panel and having a conversation with a STEM Advantage alumna who now works at Sony. Her journey inspired me deeply, and moments like that have shaped who I am today.

Thanks to STEM Advantage's funding, I was able to attend the SHPE conference and participate in amazing programs without needing to take time away from school or extracurricular activities."

### Help Us Help More Students Like Roxana

Gift the Gift of  
Opportunity

### 2024 in Pictures

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, mentors, and corporate partners, this year we served over 600 talented students, primarily first-generation college students from low-income families. Together, we are helping them prepare for and launch a STEM career, earn a bachelor's degree with less student debt, and realize their dreams.



### Spread Holiday Cheer - One Scholar at a Time

Every STEM Advantage Scholar has the talent, grit, and ambition to succeed -- they just need someone to open the door. This holiday season, your generosity can provide scholarships, internships, and vital career-building experiences to deserving students.

Together, we can unlock potential and change lives. Join us in creating opportunities for those who need it most. We are truly grateful for your support.

Give the Gift of Opportunity

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



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