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January 2025 Newsletter

A heartfelt thank you to all the hard-working, dedicated first responders and everyone helping people and animals affected by the devastating Los Angeles fires.



National Mentoring Month - Thank You, Mentors!

Did you know that January is National Mentoring Month? We are incredibly grateful to STEM professionals who serve as mentors for STEM Advantage Scholars providing role models, support, guidance, and coaching.

"I really love having Han as my mentor. She helps me feel relaxed about this whole process and the process to get a job after graduation." - Alina

"Cyrus was amazing at giving me a holistic view of the cybersecurity space. He gave me a lot of great resources like the DevOps Handbook and news resources to keep up with the industry." - Jae

"My mentor has supported my personal and professional development by providing me with advice and strategies for how to approach certain situations to achieve the best possible result. He has also helped me with balancing my responsibilities and helping me navigate the job market." - Jeffrey

"My mentor has always supported me in my personal and professional development, as he always provides excellent guidance on how he would approach something in the best way possible. Whether relating to applying for jobs, improving my resume, or knowing whether a certain job is a good fit for me or not. My relationship with my mentor is great. Every session, we learn something new about each other which I enjoy since he has experienced what I'm experiencing now. I would really like to thank Pallav for taking time out of his day to speak with me and check on me and how I'm doing. It is really great to spend some time with people who want to see you succeed in life" - Abdulkhaliq

If you would like to be a mentor for a student in our next cohort, please send a note to Tania at tania@stemadvantage.org. We are seeking software engineers, software developers, cybersecurity specialists, data scientists, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, civil engineers, and professionals with AI experience.

Maximizing Internship Opportunities on a Limited Budget



Internships are a smart investment in talent, innovation, and the future of tech. Internships aren't just about meeting short-term project needs; they're a powerful strategy for fostering innovation, driving organizational success, and creating pathways for entry-level diverse talent. Whether offered through structured programs or short-term contracts, internships provide a versatile and effective means to develop and secure future leaders. Working with college students pre-graduation allows companies to assess skills, gauge cultural fit, and ensure a smoother transition into full-time roles. Even organizations without a formal internship program can benefit from hiring interns as contractors.

One effective way to access diverse talent is through our organization, STEM Advantage. We have partnered with Odesus, a technology staffing and consulting firm, to streamline the process. Odesus handles payroll for STEM Advantage interns at a rate of \$25 per hour. To learn more, please read this blog from our Vice President Cindy McKenzie and reach out to Lee Ann at leeann@stemadvantage.org.

Qualcomm Career Day



Thank you to Qualcomm for hosting our STEM Advantage Scholars for a unique and insightful experience, which included learning about Qualcomm's innovative technologies, touring the labs, attending a career panel, enjoying lunch, and networking. A very special thank you to Octavio Martinez and Milan Plavsich, who serve on our Board of Directors, as well as Brianne Wada, Sarah Iglesias, Brian Millado, Abigail Deras, Madison Ma, Sergio Afonso, and everyone who helped with the tour and coordinating this event. We appreciated the Qualcomm employees, who serve as STEM Advantage mentors, for joining us as well to meet with our scholars.

As one scholar shared *"It was super rad seeing all the labs and panel."*

Thank you again for being a wonderful partner and providing this memorable experience.

Cal State LA Welcome Back Celebration

Thank you to Cal State LA's College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology (ECST) and the MESA University Program for inviting STEM Advantage to participate in your "Welcome Back Celebration" to kick-off the Spring semester. We had a great time talking with students. We like seeing our current Scholars in-person and in-action as many are leaders with the various clubs and organizations. Plus, we met many new students and had an opportunity to tell them about our program.

A special thank you to Dr. Daniel Galvan, Cambrian Sorel, and the College of ECST's Student Engagement Team for all that you do to help students feel welcome and supported within the STEM community. We are grateful to partner and collaborate to help your talented students succeed in college and prepare for STEM careers.



Invest in STEM Talent

Talent is equally distributed, but opportunity is not. STEM Advantage Scholars have the talent, grit, and ambition to succeed -- they just need someone to open the door. Your investment and generosity can provide scholarships, internships, and vital career-building experiences for students. Together, we can unlock potential and

change lives. Join us in creating opportunities for those who need it most. We appreciate your support.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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



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