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STEM ADVANTAGE

Mentor. Prepare. Inspire.

December 2025 Newsletter



Thank you, Pennymac



December kicked off with Pennymac awarding STEM Advantage a very generous GivingTuesday grant! This incredible investment directly fuels our mission to empower first-generation, low-income, and underserved college students through 1-to-1 career support to secure internships and full-time jobs,

mentorship, scholarships, professional and career development, and community.

We are tremendously grateful not only for this gift, but for the ongoing partnership we've built with Pennymac. Their commitment goes beyond financial support as employees volunteer as mentors providing our scholars with guidance, encouragement and real-world expertise.

Sharing a few photos from Pennymac volunteer fairs where our alumni, Board members and staff had an opportunity to meet Pennymac employees.

Thank you, Pennymac, for believing in our mission and investing in the next generation of STEM talent.



Thank you, Qualcomm



We were honored to receive a 2025 San Diego Employee Giving Committee grant thanks to being nominated by our Qualcomm Board members Octavio Martinez and Milan Plavsich. This grant has special meaning because recipients are selected by Qualcomm employees for serving and bringing positive change to the San Diego community. STEM Advantage serves talented STEM students attending Cal State San Marcos and San Diego State University creating a ripple effect that benefits scholars, their families and communities.

We are grateful for our partnership with Qualcomm, which includes employees serving as mentors for our scholars, conducting panels and workshops to introduce scholars to innovations and technologies that are truly changing the world, funding scholarships, and providing opportunities for internships and early career roles. Qualcomm has conducted multiple in-person events for our scholars to visit their campus and be inspired by touring the labs, learning about and experiencing innovative technologies, and hearing from and networking with leading designers and engineers.

Sharing a few photos from a volunteer fair for more employees to get involved and support our scholars and one of our tours.



What do these amazing companies have in common?



These are just a few companies where our Scholars have secured summer internships and entry-level jobs!

If your company or someone you know provides internships and entry level roles, we have vetted skilled talent ready to make a valued contribution to your team. Please contact Jasmyn at jasmyn@stemadvantage.org to discuss your hiring needs. *Thank you!*

STEM Advantage Campus Ambassador program



The STEM Advantage Campus Ambassador program is a new leadership initiative designed to strengthen our on-campus Scholar communities. Dedicated Scholars have the opportunity to serve as STEM Advantage representatives on their university campuses, increasing program engagement and supporting other Scholars—especially incoming Freshmen and Transfer students—through peer mentorship, resource-sharing, and campus-based outreach.

As a Campus Ambassador, students act as a bridge between STEM Advantage and their university community. Ambassadors promote STEM Advantage programs and opportunities, support scholar onboarding, share campus insights, host community-building events, and help our team stay informed about student needs and campus trends. This position provides Ambassadors valuable leadership experience and hands-on skills in communication, event planning, community engagement, and professional collaboration, as they support peers, build their resume, and expand their network.

We launched the program with Ambassadors at three campuses and will expand to all campuses we serve in 2026.

Sharing a few examples of launch activities and photos...

Danna at San Diego State organized a panel with scholars who are seniors to discuss internships, ways to get more involved with our program and clubs at SDSU, and networking to make meaningful connections. Plus, future workshops and socials to keep the community engaged.

Saad at Cal Poly Pomona shared "Students came together, everyone had a good time, and it was great to see people talking and connecting. I really value the mixers and meet-ups—having designated time to connect builds a stronger sense of community and comfort. It helps students feel like they're part of a community, not just a program."

Larry at Cal State LA shared "People are already looking forward to more events like this."



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 internships and vital career-building experiences, mentors, scholarships, and community for first-generation, low-income, and underserved students. Together, we can unlock potential and change lives.

Please join us in creating opportunities for those who need it most. We sincerely appreciate your support.

DONATE NOW

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

