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## February 2026 Newsletter

February was a powerful month for STEM Advantage as we continued building meaningful connections between our scholars and the STEM community. Our scholars explored the intersection of STEM and storytelling during a visit to Netflix Animation Studios and our team connected with nearly 300 high school girls at the American Heart Association's STEM Goes Red event to share pathways into STEM careers and continued strengthening relationships through visits to our partner schools, staying closely connected to the students we serve.

Each experience this month reinforced our belief that exposure, mentorship, and community expand what feels possible.

### Netflix Animation Studios Panel and Tour



STEM Advantage Scholars had the incredible opportunity to visit Netflix Animation Studios! From learning how the animation production process works to exploring the many technical and creative roles involved, the visit helped scholars better understand the range of careers available to them.

We are deeply grateful to Joshua Gutierrez; panelists Rebecca Ballesteros, Production Coordinator; Andrea Hurtado, Executive Assistant to the COO and ERG Lead for SOMOS; Jorge R. Gutiérrez, Writer, Producer, Director, and Voice Actor; and the entire Netflix Animation team for the intentionality, care, and thoughtfulness poured into this experience.

## Welcoming Dr. Raquel and Melissa to the

# STEM Advantage Advisory Board

STEM Advantage is proud to welcome two outstanding leaders to our Advisory Board. Their experience, insight, and commitment to expanding opportunity in STEM will help strengthen our mission and deepen the impact we create for scholars.



## Dr. Raquel Marquez

We are honored to welcome **Dr. Raquel Marquez** to the STEM Advantage Advisory Board. A seasoned technology and people leader, Dr. Marquez brings extensive experience driving IT strategy, digital transformation, and employee engagement at HP. She is deeply committed to mentorship and advancing inclusive pathways in STEM.



## Melissa Blashka

We are thrilled to welcome **Melissa Blashka** to the STEM Advantage Advisory Board. As President of Sensorex, Inc., Melissa brings strong operational leadership and a passion for innovation, talent development, and advancing opportunities in technical industries.

## Winter Career Program

We recently wrapped up our Winter Career Program, a series designed to equip scholars with the tools and confidence to navigate internships and career opportunities. Through workshops on resume building, mock interviews, project showcases, and alumni reflections on belonging in STEM, scholars gained practical strategies to stand out in competitive recruitment processes.

These sessions reinforced not only career readiness, but a strong sense of belonging and direction in STEM. **Thank you to all of the companies that participated!**



*The companies listed above represent only a portion of those who supported and participated in this program.*

## Seeking Internships & Entry-Level Jobs

What do these companies have in common?



They are just a few of the incredible organizations where STEM Advantage Scholars have secured summer internships and entry-level roles. Our Scholars bring strong technical skills, professionalism, and a readiness to contribute from day one.

If your company—or someone in your network—offers paid internships and/or entry-level opportunities, we would love to connect. We have vetted, motivated talent ready to make a meaningful contribution to teams across industries.

To discuss hiring needs or partnership opportunities, please contact **Jasmyn Masters-Culpepper** at [jasmyn@stemadvantage.org](mailto:jasmyn@stemadvantage.org).

Thank you for being part of the STEM Advantage community and for helping create pathways from education to meaningful careers.

### Your gift supports STEM Advantage Scholars!



Thank you for your ongoing support,  
Lee Ann and The STEM Advantage Team

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