




MOST 2015-2016 STEMbassadors

Name	Role	Biography
 <p data-bbox="394 686 567 711"><i>Kate McGuire</i></p>	<p data-bbox="810 305 1358 367">Baltimore Regional Director, Maryland Science Olympiad</p> <p data-bbox="810 407 1358 469">Vice President of Outreach, Society of Women Engineers – Baltimore/Washington Region</p>	<p data-bbox="1409 305 1982 613">Kate recently retired as a Senior Director of Engineering at Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems with over 30 years’ experience in leadership in technical product development, strategy, and management. Her product background includes ground and airborne surveillance radars, space sensors, the Longbow helicopter radar, submarine power systems, and night vision goggles.</p> <p data-bbox="1409 621 1982 865">She graduated with dual degrees from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a B.A. in American Studies. She has a Masters in Management from Johns Hopkins University. Kate is the first female in on either side of her family to go to college.</p>



Zachary Pekar

Project Director, Lakeland Elementary School
Young Explorers

Zach received his bachelor's in Environmental Intelligence Studies from Mercyhurst University in the frozen tundra that is Erie, PA. From there Zach served for a year with AmeriCorps NCCC down south where he lived and worked in Mississippi and Louisiana (Who Dat!). After that amazing experience, Zach completed his masters in Biology from DePaul University in Chicago before serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Denver, Colorado. Currently, Zach is a Project Director at UMBC where he helps to run a STEM after school and summer camp program at Lakeland Elementary Middle School. In his spare time, Zach enjoys long walks on the beach with his favorite beakers, watching Bill Nye the Science Guy, and wearing his bar-headed goose socks.



Sharon Ball

Technology Teacher, Patterson High School,
Baltimore, MD

Sharon received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from the Ohio Institute of Technology in 1982. In 1982, she joined Weston Controls-Schlumberger in Pennsylvania as a Quality Inspection Engineer. In 1984, she joined Lockheed Martin as a Senior Quality Assurance Engineer in Baltimore, Maryland. Her zest for teaching has earned her numerous awards and recognition, including: NFTE (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) Outstanding Teacher of the Year, the Baltimore Council of PTA's "Outstanding Teacher of the Year," the Reginald F. Lewis "Outstanding Teacher of the Year", the Governor's Citation for High School "Program Excellence" in Technology, and TEAM's Outstanding Educator Award. She is currently a member of the International Technology Education Association (ITEA), the Technology Education Leadership Program (TELP), the Maryland Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program, and Kappa Delta Pi, an international Honor Society in Education. In 2007, Sharon became certified to teach courses in the nationally recognized Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering Program. She was an integral part in implementing the program at Patterson High School which became the first high school in Baltimore City to attain certification in 2008.



Muhammad Najee-ullah

Founder and CEO, Pelican Fly Concepts
@pflytechsportz
<https://www.facebook.com/pflyTechsportz>

Founder and CEO, Muhammad Najee-ullah, established Pelican Fly Concepts LLC as an Education-Tech research and development start-up with goals to increase S.T.E.A.M. (Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math) awareness, and proficiency, health awareness, and fitness activity in youth and young adults across the USA specifically in the disadvantaged and under-served urban communities. The company's hashtags #ProFitness #ProSTEAM and #Anti_evils speak to an intended culture shift via the establishment of a series of tournament styled, team vs team, educational gaming events available to the community on a regular basis. A visionary and community activist, Mr. Muhammad along with his team of Juxtopia.org Engineers in Training (JETS) is developing the FullBlast S.T.E.A.M. physical-digital hybrid gaming platform as high quality informal learning environments with the attraction power to drastically increase STEM awareness and STEM career pursuits among young people across ethnic and economic divides.



Joslyn Jones

Librarian III, Children's Services, Bowie Branch –
Prince George's County Memorial Library
System

Joslyn Jones is the Children's Services Supervisor at Prince George's County Memorial Library System's Bowie Branch. The Bowie Branch location shares a campus with the local high school (Bowie High School), and because of that close proximity, 100+ high school students descend upon the library building daily. From the need to provide a safe, welcoming environment place for teens to decompress daily at the library, Joslyn implemented an after school Teen Zone program in the fall of 2014. From the Teen Zone grew STEM program offerings, including a Girls Who Code Club, Technovation Maryland, and Teen Tech Week. This fall, teens can look forward to coding Finch Robots, which will be on loan the entire school year from a grant secured by Joslyn from BirdBrain Technologies' finch Robot Loan Program. Joslyn is looking forward to learning even more about developing innovative and exciting programs for children and young adults at the Bowie Branch Library with guidance and inspiration from the Digital Harbor Foundation!



Mark DeMorra

Coach – Wicomico Library/Community Partnership, FLL & Zero Robotics

Mark DeMorra is graduate of Salisbury University, receiving his Bachelor's in Physics and M.B.A. in 2008 and 2012, respectively. This is Mark's 2nd year as a STEMBassador, and he's very happy to be able to hang out with his STEM posse again. When not busy working on his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics (or sleeping), Mark is an adjunct professor at UMES teaching Physics, a math and physics tutor for middle-school through college students, a business consultant for 2 mid-Atlantic based startup companies, and a coach/mentor for numerous STEM groups, including First Lego League and Zero Robotics. He is an avid traveler, reader, gamer, and trivia night attendee with dreams of creating and hosting game shows of his own. This lifelong passion for puzzles, games, and all "sports of the mind" have helped him guide teams under his tutelage to both regional and national titles, recently including the 2014 Zero Robotics Middle School national championship. He lives by and guides his students using the motto he first heard as a child in *Back to the Future*: "If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything."



Veronica Anderson

STEM Educator, Baltimore Urban Gardening with Students (BUGS), Living Classrooms Foundation

I was born to 2 research biologists in Silver Spring, MD. So, science is in my blood and I proudly embraced my nerd heritage. After high school, I moved to Asheville, NC to attend Warren Wilson College where I continued to take tons of science classes. I also worked for the Chemistry Department so got to go behind-the-scenes and get hands-on experience with all of the equipment. Warren Wilson provided me with some incredible internship opportunities with Smithsonian Environmental Research Foundation and Programme for Belize which just fed my passion for science. After graduating, I moved back to Maryland and worked in a biofuels research lab at UMD. After a year of that, I revolted against being inside all the time and ran away to sea. With no prior sailing experience I agreed to be a deckhand/medical officer on a 120-foot schooner sailing from St. Thomas to the Chesapeake. I caught the sailing bug, and then spent the next few years teaching and sailing on traditionally-rigged sailboats from New England to the Caribbean. I took a contract on one of LCF's Baltimore-based boats to be closer to family and never left. I love the city and the Living Classrooms Foundation's experiential education model. After 3 years on their boats I moved onshore and took a position with BUGS, initially as the Cooking and Nutrition Educator and now as the STEM Educator.



Brittany Young

Executive Director, Big Sib/Lil Sib

Brittany Young is a Baltimore native, educated through the city school system. An engineer by trade, but has a diverse technical and employment background which includes McCormick & Co., NASA, APL, and Key Technology Inc. She has also worked with the Y of Central MD in an initiative to bridge STEM gaps and development in early childhood education. She along with a team of her colleagues is responsible for a city wide partnership between the Baltimore City School System (BCPSS) and FIRST Lego League to bring robotics to elementary school students throughout the city. She also works with the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute developing a program that bridges the gaps between middle school and high school - Big Sib/Lil Sib.



Alexis Dashield

President, Fruitland Community Center

I started volunteering at the Fruitland Community Center (FCC) when sons William (2nd grade) and Julian (1st grade) enrolled in the free Tutorial program. Since 1991, I have served on the Board of Directors of the Fruitland Community Center, Inc. accepting several roles including the president. As president, I share the Center's vision and mission to garner financial support for education and enrichment programs in the out of school hours. I have several awards for my commitment to the education and enrichment program for at-risk-children enrolled at the FCC. The center's programs provide the education resources and homework assistance to improve academic success in the classroom. I have been a volunteer at the FCC for over a quarter century and received several awards and certificates.



Scott Davis

Education Director, Education Based Latino Outreach

Scott Davis is the Interim Educational Director at Education Based Latino Outreach (EBLO) in Baltimore. Here he oversees EBLO's afterschool programs at two Baltimore City Public Schools serving over 160 students from kindergarten to 5th grade. A native Marylander, he grew up on a dairy farm in Carroll County, showing his cows at the state fair every year. After graduating from Goucher College, Scott taught Spanish for two years at Lansdowne Middle School in Baltimore County. In 2012 he moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina for three years, recently returning to Baltimore. While in South America, Scott had the opportunity to travel to Chile, Peru and Uruguay expanding his Spanish language skills and seeing some amazing sights. Scott and his husband Sergio now live in Baltimore where they are able to spend time with his large and close-knit family. Although, a lover of humanities and languages, Scott, very much to the surprise of his biologist mother, is excited to be a STEMbassador and bring exciting STEM educational activities to his students and staff at EBLO.



Anya Myers

Co-Founder and Chair, KidsSTREAM, Inc.
@kidsstream

Anya has been passionate about helping children and adults for over 30 years. She started working with youth as a babysitter at age 14 and continued until working in the State Department in 1990. With the urge and desire to return back with working with youth, she started her own daycare in 2000. After 10 years of taking care of children through her daycare and summer programs, she pursued her other passion of becoming a nurse. Anya worked at Children's National Medical Center, Civista Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente. Currently, Anya is the Co-Founder and Chair of KidsSTREAM, Inc.



Vernon Myers

Co-Founder and CEO, KidsSTREAM, Inc.
@kidsstream

Vernon is no stranger to the informal and formal educational arena since he has spent over 20 years in school, afterschool and summer program settings. Mr. Myers has served as a classroom teacher in Prince George's County and Washington, D.C. He has worked with Prince George's Community College, Minnesota 4-H Program, Big Brother and Big Sister of Minneapolis, Poetic Souljahs Poetry Program, and Summer Enrichment Program at Suitland High School. Currently, Vernon is the Co-Founder and CEO of KidsSTREAM, Inc., chairs Ironsn7sfire, Inc., a mentoring program that serves youth in the Washington, D.C. area, and works as the Instructional Resource Teacher at J.P. Ryon Elementary in Charles County, Maryland.



Alisha Sparks

STEM Program Manager, Center for Educational Outreach – Johns Hopkins University

Alisha oversees the STEM Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Schools (SABES) program serving 3rd – 5th grade students in nine Baltimore city public schools. Prior to joining Johns Hopkins, she worked for Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore CDF Freedom Schools and the Center for Women and Information Technology at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. In addition to her professional experience, she had done extensive work in her local community and abroad by serving with organizations such as In His Presence Ministries, W. J. Thompson, Jr. Ministries, Girl Scouts of Center Maryland and the International Partnership for Service Learning. Her passion is working with young people and helping them to succeed. Alisha firmly believes that "it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men [and women]" as stated by Frederick Douglas. Alisha is a proud alumna of Voorhees College (Denmark, SC) and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (Baltimore, MD), where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Master of Arts in Instructional Systems Development, respectively.



Steph Alphee

STEM Program Specialist, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

Stephanie Alphee is the STEM Program Specialist at the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. Before joining the Girl Scouts in March, Stephanie used her love of all things STEM to create afterschool opportunities for youth in Western Maryland serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Maryland Out of School Time Network and 4-H. Her long history with STEM began with participating in science fairs in high school, and continued throughout college where she mentored middle and high school girls as a Women in Science and Engineering Honors Student at Stony Brook University. Continuing her work with MOST and STEM, Stephanie hopes to bring more exciting opportunities to the girls of the greater Baltimore area as 2015 STEMbassador.



Estela Giron

Community Life Site Coordinator, Montgomery
Housing Partnership

Estela is the lead teacher, coordinator, and resource for her site. They speak Amharic, but she has been able to build relationships with the students and families. To date, she maintains a waiting list which is a far contrast to when the program first started. MHP serves preschool to elementary-aged students from over 1,400 homes.



Georgina Whalen

Science Teacher, SEED School of Maryland

Georgina is currently the service learning coordinator at SEED School of Maryland. Georgina provides guidance, resources, and connections to community members/organizations to support SEED's grade 6-12 students. SEED School serves over 400 youth, and this year, Georgina is focusing on environmental science, robotics, and engineering.



Brady Shortall

Caroline County Recs and Parks

Brady is a first-year STEMbassador, and is eager to bring the skills learned from DHF workshops to his sites in Caroline County.



Danny Mitchell

Caroline County Recs and Parks

Danny Mitchell is a returning STEMbassador and Site Coordinator for middle school youth at 5 after school programs in Caroline County, Maryland.



Susan Ciavolino

STEM Education Director, Harford County Boys and Girls Club

Susan is returning for her 3rd consecutive year as a MOST STEMbassador. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County operate at 5 sites and serve over 4,500 students annually. This year, the Aberdeen site was named as a “STEM Center of Innovation,” and is one of 5 such Boys and Girls Clubs to receive that honor nationally. Through a partnership with the Aberdeen Proving Ground and Raytheon, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County are able to offer youth hands-on experiences in SeaPerch Robotics, Coding, Making, and much more.



Ashley Clancy

Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County

Ashley is a graduate of Aberdeen High School, a profound magnet program in Harford County. Her senior capstone project was the development of biodegradable plastic and analyzing its tensile strength. Currently, she attends college majoring in Mass Communications. With a degree, Ashley hopes to work with technology to communicate a message around building, creating, and the integration of art in STEM.