

JOY BUOLAMWINI

Founder/Leader, Algorithmic Justice League

Dear STEM students,

When I was 9 years old, I first discovered an AI robot named Kismet at the MIT Media Lab. Kismet seemed so magical. The robot could smile! I learned it wasn't magic, but STEM and the curious minds at MIT that made Kismet so wonderful.

From the start of my research at MIT, I had interesting pushback from people I thought would be supportive. The pushback was all well-intentioned, warning that talking about bias and racism might put my work in a box. However, I knew biases in AI was an important area to explore. This is why I founded the Algorithmic Justice League.

**We want the world to remember that who codes matters,
how we code matters, and that we can code a better future.**

Now, people who once gave pushback are supporters of my work. Sometimes, you have to take the head winds when others don't yet see your vision. When you think something is important, don't be discouraged if others don't see it. Not everyone will see what you see and how you see it. Keep dreaming. Keep learning. Keep believing in yourself.

All the best,
JOY BUOLAMWINI

#FaceTheSTEMGap



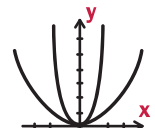
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RESHMA SAUJANI

Founder/CEO, Girls Who Code

Hi friends,

Would you believe me if I told you that when I was a kid, I really didn't like taking science and math classes? It's true. It wasn't until my 3rd grade teacher taught me how to build a circuit for a stoplight that I learned to appreciate science class. I thought it was so cool that I could make it change colors! But more importantly, I learned a lesson that has stuck with me all my life: Never give up.

It's something I talk about a lot, actually. That we need to teach girls, and women too, that it's okay to not be perfect. Instead, adults need to focus on teaching girls to be brave and to take risks, like coding and programming — even if it doesn't come easy to everyone. Just like science and math didn't come easy for me!

I want you to know that if you dream of someday being a scientist, an engineer or an inventor, I know you can do it.

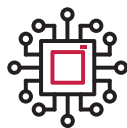
**Your generation is going to change the world.
You're going to change the world, even if you're not perfect.
Because I know you'll be brave.**

Sincerely,
RESHMA SAUJANI

#FaceTheSTEMGap



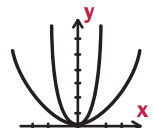
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ALYSSA CARSON

Aspiring Astronaut

Hello,

I first got interested in space when I was only 3 years old after watching a cartoon about space. I would ask for books, videos, posters, or anything about space – I was obsessed! My goal is to one day land on Mars.

If you're interested in becoming an astronaut, my advice is to start by figuring out what kind of path you want to take. There are many ways to get to space. You could study medicine, science, be a pilot or anything related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Then, begin to look in your local area for any opportunities. There could be a STEM fair at a local library or a robotics event. Take any opportunity to learn more, because you never know what will have an impact.

Keep following your dreams, even if it feels impossible at times. If there is something you are passionate about, then you can work hard to achieve it.

I hope to see you in space someday.

Best,
ALYSSA CARSON

#FaceTheSTEMGap



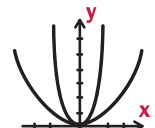
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ALYSSA GEORGE

Olay Process Engineer

Hello,

Math was something I struggled with when I was in school, but that didn't stop me from becoming an engineer. I learned the best way to learn something was to learn from my mistakes and try to teach my friends and family to see if I understood it.

Now, I am an engineer who works for Procter & Gamble – I spend my days solving problems so that way there is Olay on the shelves for everyone. I followed my dreams into STEM and into engineering, and I've been able to do some pretty cool things. I get to see the products that I make every day both at work and when I go to the store.

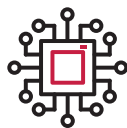
There is nothing that you are not able to do as long as you believe that you can do it and get the help that you need to keep moving forward. I believe in you!

Best,
ALYSSA GEORGE

#FaceTheSTEMGap



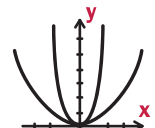
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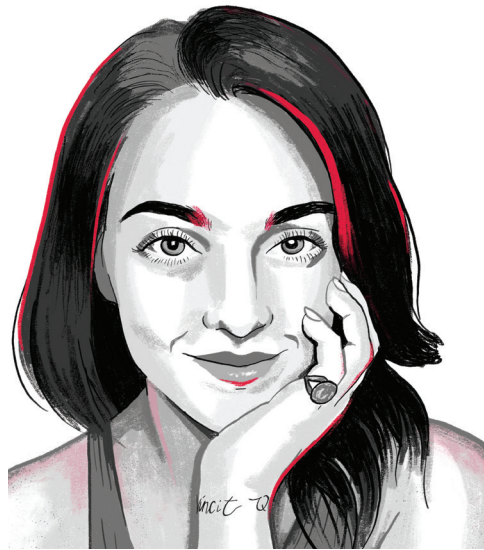
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JENNIFER STONE

Nurse/Actress

Dear students,

Have you ever felt like you might be interested in something, but then were afraid to express that passion because it might be too “weird” or too ambitious? If you have felt that, you’re not alone.

I was the kid who got excited about days in lab, doing experiments when other kids were grossed out or bored. Field trips to the museum were my favorite days! I didn’t know what to do with my passions for science because I didn’t necessarily see other people exploring the same interests.

**Well, today I’m your people. If you have a question,
seek the answer. If you face a problem, search for the
solution. If you have a theory, prove it!**

Embrace being different and into something others might not understand. For it is in embracing the love of the unknown and what makes this world tick that will turn your love of the supposedly “too weird” or “ambitious” into a discovery that could help or change the world!

Best,
JENNIFER STONE

#FaceTheSTEMGap



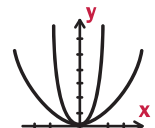
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KRISTEN DURST

P&G Business Analyst

Hello!

When I was your age, I loved math and science. They were my favorite subjects in school. What I didn't know then was how many awesome things I could do with it.

Now, I get to use math every day to see what things people buy in stores when certain commercials are on TV. It's not for everyone, but it's fascinating to me.

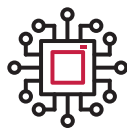
Even though sometimes it was hard, I am glad I stuck with it.
My advice is if you find something in school you love,
follow it. It will lead you to unexpected places and
careers you didn't even know existed.

Sincerely,
KRISTEN DURST

#FaceTheSTEMGap



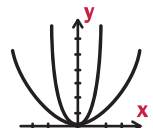
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SHANNON WEITZ

*Olay Group Scientist,
Research and Development*

To young, curious women and men,

Amazing things can happen when you follow your passions. You can discover new inventions with science, technology, engineering and math even when you think it is not possible.

My parents didn't go to college, but I did, and while I was there, I worked in a lab, growing skin for burn victims. Now, I get to spend my days demonstrating how skin care products work. I get to have fun with bouncing hydration beads, use my microscope to look really close at the skin, and understand how different chemicals will react together. The best part is I get to share what I learn so that people can have better skin, sometimes even on TV with Dr. Oz!

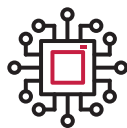
**You never know what can happen when you have a passion,
like I do, for science. It can take you places you never
dreamed. Do what you love and keep being curious -
amazing things can happen!**

Sincerely,
SHANNON WEITZ

#FaceTheSTEMGap



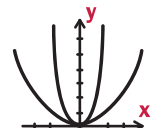
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TORI MOORE

Cosmetic Chemist

Dear students,

If you didn't know, STEM is for everyone, and to be quite honest, it's a lot of FUN! New technologies are being invented every day, and we need students just like you to pursue STEM studies to fuel future innovations.

**The best tips I can give is to never stop asking questions
and to celebrate every successful or unsuccessful attempt!
You are capable of greatness and can do anything
you put your mind to!**

The world needs your creativity, passion, thought process and intellect. Let nothing deter you from accomplishing your goals and dreams. And if no one else is, know that I am always cheering you on!

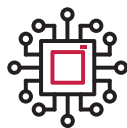
I hope this letter inspires you to love STEM even more than you already do!

Sincerely,
TORI MOORE

#FaceTheSTEMGap



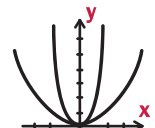
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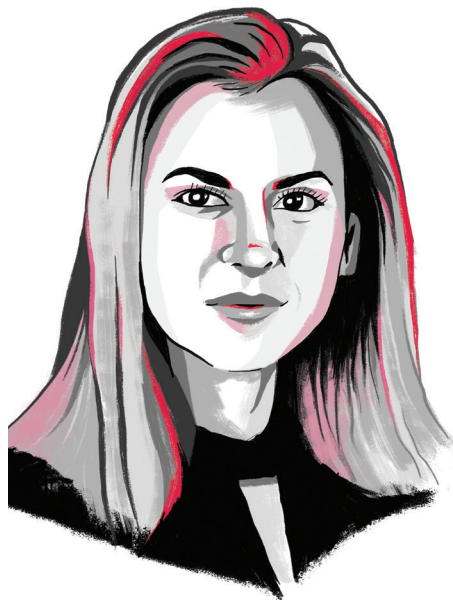
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VASTHY M. MARRERO LEBRÓN

Skin Care Supply Chain Director

Dear amazing students,

Learning is a never-ending journey and the one thing that will prepare you for life. STEM is such a big canvas to explore; get creative and think outside the box.

I studied chemical engineering in school. My first project was testing nitrogen tanks for compliance. Five years later, I worked in a manufacturing facility as a packing process engineer for Olay Skin Care. Fast forward to now 16 years later, I'm leading the team responsible for supplying Olay skin care products to all America.

That is just a taste of where studying takes you and the huge open door you have in front of you with a STEM career. At the end, all that matters is that you stay true to yourself and follow what you love to do.

**I leave you with my favorite quote from Peter F. Drucker:
“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”
Go and create it!**

Best wishes,
VASTHY M. LEBRÓN

#FaceTheSTEMGap



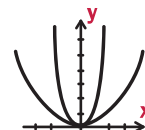
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