



*Mission: Mentor, prepare and inspire young women and underserved communities to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)*

### Program overview

STEM Advantage launched our program at California State University, Dominguez Hills, in 2012. The STEM Advantage program is comprised of a paid internship, mentorship and scholarship. This 360-degree approach combines experiential, financial and directional support, and is designed to provide the support needed to keep promising scholars in a STEM program, including skills and work experience that will assist them in landing their first position after graduation, plus graduate with less student debt. To date we have selected nearly 50 STEM Advantage Scholars.

### STEM Advantage Scholar benefits

- Gain relevant and practical work experience through paid internships at leading companies
- Build technical skills
- Develop communication, problem solving, collaboration and critical thinking skills
- Receive a one-on-one mentor to support both personal and professional growth
- Receive a \$5000 scholarship to graduate with less student debt
- Build confidence, knowledge and experience to help realize your dreams and potential



### Paid internships

Internships provide students real-world experience and an opportunity to develop both technical and soft skills

- STEM Advantage partners with local companies to provide internships in a variety of information technology disciplines
- Companies that have provided paid internships include Avery Dennison, CBS, DIRECTV/AT&T, Farmers Insurance, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Honda, Jacobs Engineering, Lionsgate, Moog, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Toyota, WASH and Zaszou
- Internships are full-time in the summer. Depending upon the company, students may be invited to continue their internship during the school year at 10-20 hours per week



### Mentorships

Scholars are paired with a mentor for the life of their time in the program. Mentors provide a role model of a successful IT professional and:

- provide personal support, guidance and coaching on the life skills that will help students stay in college and earn a bachelor's degree in a STEM discipline
- expose students to the lifelong benefits of higher education and a career in a STEM-related field
- are a comfortable 'go to' person for students to ask questions related to school, work and life



### Scholarships

STEM Advantage Scholars receive a \$5000 scholarship to be used for any financial need the student may have. The scholarship is renewable as long as the student qualifies for the program.



### Career and Personal Development Workshops

Workshops include resume writing, interviewing skills, career panels and workplace etiquette. Workshops are open to all students taking a STEM class.

### Application process

To Apply:

- You must be a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States
- You must be enrolled Full-time pursuing a BS in Computer Science or BA in Computer Technology at Cal State Dominguez Hills
- You must be a junior or senior in Fall semester 2016
- You must have and maintain a GPA of 3.0 in your major
- You must have and maintain an overall GPA of 2.5
- You MUST participate in the full time summer internship
- You must pass an internship company's drug test or background check, if requested

Key Steps:

- Complete the application
- Write two short essays
- Submit a resume
- Provide two recommendations – one from a faculty member and one from someone who knows you well, such as a work supervisor, coach, community leader or clergy
- Submit an unofficial college transcript
- Submit your application, essays, resume, recommendations and transcript to Dr. Beheshti **by October 30, 2015**

### Timeline

Activity	Schedule
School Visits	Week of September 14
Applications due	10/30/2015
Participant Selection (vetted by faculty)	11/30/2015
Participant interviews by STEM Advantage	12/4/2015 (tentative)
Companies inform STEM Advantage of intern requirements	December – March 2016
STEM Advantage sends application packages to companies	December – March 2016
Internship Interviews scheduled*	December – March 2016
Participants announced*	March – April 2016
Pair mentors and mentees	April – May 2016
Begin Internships	May or June 2016
Receive scholarship	Fall semester 2016

*\* Times are subject to change as these are driven by the internship companies*

Dr. Beheshti will send the application to all students enrolled in a computer science program. If you do not receive the application or have other questions, please ask Dr. Beheshti or send an email to [info@stemadvantage.org](mailto:info@stemadvantage.org). Thank you! Cindy McKenzie & Lee Ann Kline