

# STEM ACADEMY

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



*An Eastern Shore of Maryland program that provides high-quality STEM education to students facing barriers to access.*

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# ABOUT US

At the CITS STEM ACADEMY our commitment to equal access is at the heart of everything we do.

We believe barriers to access should not prohibit anyone from receiving high-quality STEM education and experiences.

To dismantle these barriers, we have implemented a variety of programs and initiatives that are accessible regardless of one's economic status or ethnicity.

Since 2019, we have been committed to expanding our efforts to reach even more students in the future. We believe that by working together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable STEM education ecosystem for all.



## MISSION

To ensure all students, especially those who are underserved, have equal opportunities to learn and excel in STEM subjects.

## VISION

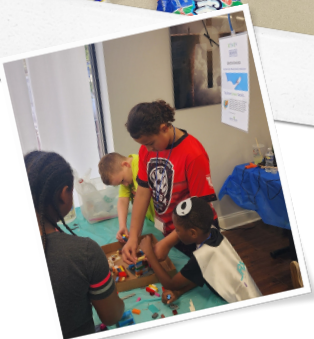
STEM Equity For All.

## VALUES

- Access and Opportunity
- Lifelong Learning and Curiosity
- Collaboration and Community Empowerment

## MOTIVATION

As a Minority-Owned Tech Company we know first hand of the disparities that exist in tech spaces. We believe that the collective sum of small-scale community based efforts can make a tremendous impact towards the realization of STEM Equity For All.



# LEADERSHIP



## JOHN WATKINS, CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

John is the Founder and Chief Technologist of Computer Island Technology Services. He leverages over 32 years of tech experience to serve his clients and to educate and empower the community. John's unwavering commitment to both technological advancement and community well-being makes him a valuable resource in the tech industry.



## LOLITA WATKINS, CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Lolita embodies faith, fortitude, and humility. As co-owner of Computer Island Technology Services, Lolita's passion for service extends to the business world and beyond. She serves her community through spiritual leadership and various philanthropic initiatives. She is a speaker, co-author, and recipient of the 2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.



## LESLIE TUPAJ, CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Leslie is CITS' tech service coordinator and has had a passion for tech since the age of 13, when a family member built a PC for her from scratch. After going to her first computer show, she was hooked. Building gaming computers is now one of her favorite things to do. She expertly organizes and teaches in the STEM Academy and hopes to show young girls that they too have a place in the tech industry.



## ASHLEY HARRIS, OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Ashley is an experienced business consultant who brings a unique blend of business acumen and social responsibility to her work. She believes that businesses have a responsibility to contribute to the well-being of the communities they serve. As such, she is proud to be apart of the team and support the Academy's vision of "STEM Equity For All".



# PROGRAMS



## SUMMER STEAM CAMP

Provides an opportunity for children ages 6-11 to learn in a fun and immersive way through activities that encourage hands-on experience, interactive games, and experiments.



## TEEN STEM CLUB

Offers peer centric experiences for teens and pre-teens ages 12-17 to expand their knowledge and passion for STEM subjects through hands-on projects, workshops, presentations, and competitions.



## POP-UP STEM EXPERIENCES

Provides seasonal one-day events and multi-day programs, such as Parent's Night Out where children have a 3-hour STEM experience while their parents enjoy leisurely down time.



## STEM FOR SENIORS

Offers seniors the opportunity to dive into STEM education via convenient community-based classes and experiences in an environment where they can feel comfortable, confident, and empowered.



## COMPUTER LAB SPONSORSHIPS

Provides essential tech equipment to communities that lack access to these resources. With the provision of each tech resource the digital divide is narrowed.



# IMPACT

STEM education is crucial for providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a world increasingly driven by technology.

Benefits for students:

- Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Improves communication and collaboration skills.
- Increases creativity and innovation.
- Prepares students for high-demand careers.

Benefits for society:

- Drives innovation and economic growth.
- Addresses global challenges.
- Promotes diversity and inclusion.

# PARTNERS

It is through the kindness and generosity of individuals and organizations that we are able to offer tuition-free STEM education and experiences to each and every one of our participants.

In addition to the aforementioned supporter types, we are also fortunate to have a trusted partner, New Walk Community Church, that provides financial oversight and management.

# CONNECT WITH US

There are many ways to get involved with the CITS STEM ACADEMY!

You can donate, sign up to be an educator, or even just help us spread the word about our programs. Your support will help us to continue providing high-quality STEM education to all learners, regardless of their age, ethnicity, or financial status.

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