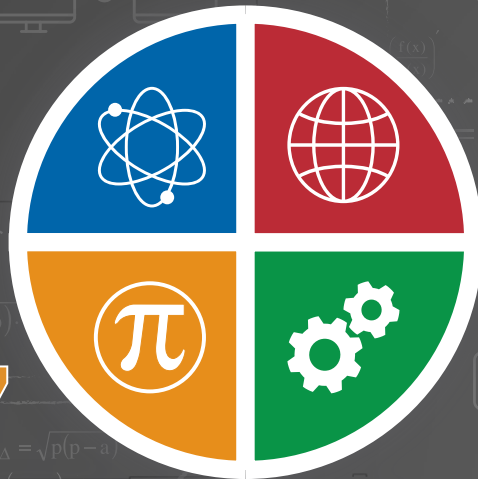


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2017

INSPIRING LEADERS IN STEM AWARD

Recognizing STEM leaders from underrepresented groups who encourage the next generation to pursue STEM education and careers

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Colleges work to engage underrepresented groups in climate change efforts

A celebration of National Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month



At Florida A&M University–Florida State University (FAMU-FSU) College of Engineering, **Shonda Bernadin**, PhD, is the only African American woman in her department, where she serves as an associate professor of electrical engineering. Having had to overcome the obstacles of race and gender on her professional journey, she places great emphasis on supporting black and Hispanic female engineering students. In collaboration with other researchers, Bernadin has worked to identify factors that contribute to the success of underrepresented engineering students and to develop effective strategies to address the motivational and emotional factors affecting their academic performance. In 2014, she created the “TECH-tastic” workshop series, which includes STEM events to increase K-6 students’ awareness of STEM fields, and in 2016, she received a two-year grant from the U.S. Army to design and implement a summer program for underserved and underrepresented high school students; called AEOP (Army Education Outreach Program) UNITE, it offers information on STEM careers, academic preparation, professional development, and college- and career-readiness activities. Because of the program’s success, the Army awarded Bernadin an additional grant to create an engineering research apprenticeship program.

Thesla Berne-Anderson’s efforts to increase access to medical education and professions for underrepresented minority students has helped Florida State University (FSU) College of Medicine become one of the most diverse medical schools in the country. In her role as director of Undergraduate Outreach and Pre-College Programs, she oversees several successful pipeline programs that she created, including Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence (SSTRIDE), which inspires middle and high school students to pursue college and graduate school; Undergraduate SSTRIDE, which provides advising, mentoring, tutoring, and academic support to college students studying medicine; and the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), which encourages participants to mentor others and perform community service while pursuing medical school. Berne-Anderson also leads the college’s Summer Institute, providing opportunities for youth to learn about the college application process, interact with medical students and faculty, and gain hands-on experience in medicine. FSU and the National Council of Negro Women have recognized Berne-Anderson for her work, and she recently became a member of the Florida Physician Workforce Advisory Council.



Dennis Bonilla serves as executive dean of the College of Information Systems and Technology at the University of Phoenix, overseeing curriculum and program development and ensuring successful student outcomes. An immigrant and a U.S. Navy veteran, Bonilla has had a prosperous career in the tech industry and currently works to promote STEM, information technology, and cybersecurity education. In 2016, Bonilla co-founded the University of Phoenix’s RedFlint Experience Center, which provides advanced technology training and hands-on learning experiences for community members, including area K-12 students. He is an advocate for Latinos in STEM and regularly writes about issues related to minority participation in tech for the publications *Mi Mundo* and *Los Hispanos*. Additionally, Bonilla is a member of the Microsoft Higher Education Advisory Board and the Hispanic IT Executive Council.

Miriam Chavez, PhD, teaches biology as a Regent’s Professor at the University of New Mexico–Valencia (UNM-Valencia) — a title awarded for her tireless dedication and service to the university. Throughout her 25-year career, Chavez has led efforts to create robust STEM programs that have resulted in 28 percent of UNM-Valencia’s student population — which is composed primarily of Hispanic and underserved students — to pursue a major in general science. She currently serves as principal investigator of several STEM grant programs supported by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation and is the STEM Project Research Director for the university’s undergraduate research program. In addition to her service to the students of UNM-Valencia, Chavez serves as a science tutor and mentor at local elementary and middle schools. She is a three-time winner of the university’s Instructor of the Year Award and has been recognized by the New Mexico State Legislature and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science for her commitment to supporting Latinos, women, and other underrepresented groups in STEM.





inspiring

Tulane University congratulates our 2017 Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award winners—psychology professor Michael Cunningham, biomedical engineering associate professor Michael Moore and doctoral student Katherine Elfer. Thank you for inspiring and supporting the next generation of path-breaking researchers and scholars.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Thesla Berne-Anderson

Director of Undergraduate Outreach and Pre-College Programs



Congratulations to

Dr. Veronica Henry

Executive Assistant to the President,
Chief Diversity Officer, and Title IX Coordinator

And to All
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