Science, Engineering and Mathematics Link Inc (SEM Link) has a two core program model, Experimental Design Program and Math and Science Career Academy. These spectacular programs provide students with opportunities to develop their math and science skills by enhancing the classroom learning experience and teaching them skills that are transferable to other areas of life. Since our inception we have enhanced the educational experiences for over 1000 youth in Atlanta and the San Francisco Bay Area through hands on math and science activities, career exploration and exposure to real world applications of math and science.

Our Experimental Design Program teaches students how to design and conduct experiments for math and science fairs utilizing research, laboratory and scientific literacy skills gained through individual and group learning opportunities as well as mentoring. This program improves the quantity and quality of math and science fair projects for students by providing schools with undergraduate students, graduate students and professional mentors with science, engineering and math backgrounds to provide support for math and science fairs.

Experimental Design Program Handbook, serves as a resource for students and educators in the development of math and science fair projects.

The Experimental Design Mentoring Program, allows K-12 educators to request support for their class to receive math and science fair project mentors.

Math and Science Fair Judging, allows individual schools, school districts and community organizations to request judges for STEM competitions and fairs.

Math and Science Career Academy exposes students to math and science through hands-on activities, real-world applications and career exploration.

Career Exploration Activities, provides opportunities for schools and community organizations to request individuals to serve as volunteers for career days or panels.

Hands-on Science Activities, provide opportunities for students to get their hands “dirty” with math and science activities targeted at our community partners’ after-school and weekend programming. We also serve as exhibitors for community events of other organizations.

Math and Science Educational Tips of the Week, is written by our Founder and Executive Director and can be found on our tumblr page at www.semlinkinc.tumblr.com

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Career Fair and Exhibition is our signature annual event at various US Cities, where students are exposed to science, and engineering and mathematics careers in an environment similar to a job fair.

For our event calendar or schools and community organizations that need to request, visit http://www.semsuccess.org/programs.html

This Issue

Programs and Events
Words from the Founder & Executive Director
Upcoming Events
Corporate Partner
Volunteer With Us
SEM Link Wish List
Ways to Donate
Words from the Founder and Executive Director, Ms. Tokiwa T. Smith

The 2011-12 fiscal year is the 6th year that SEM Link has been in existence. As the founder of the organization, I’m in awe that the nonprofit that I started 6 years ago that served one middle school in Atlanta, Georgia has transitioned into national nonprofit that has served over 1000 youth in Atlanta and the San Francisco Bay Area. It is a rewarding and humbling experience to see the vision that I had of exposing kids to STEM and STEM careers by connecting them with the STEM community come to pass and expand each year. I’m looking forward to that vision continuing to grow with the help of our boards, donors, volunteers corporate and community partners.

When I started the organization, I set up a structure of two boards; an advisory board and board of directors. I’m pleased to say that I have most of my original advisory board members and one remaining founding board of director. There is a saying that when you have a vision that is bigger than you, there is no way that you can accomplish it alone. I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish anything without the support, counsel and hard work of these individuals. This fiscal year is a bittersweet moment because it is the final term for Ms. Kimberly Walker-Herring, Programs Chair on the Board of Directors. Words can’t adequately express the value of the contribution that Ms. Walker-Herring has made to the organization in her role as programs chair. I’m thankful that she gave of her time and professional expertise to help us achieve our vision of “unveiling potential through exposure” and developing programs that do so. Although, she will no longer serve on the board she will continue to volunteer with the organization and bring her children to our events.

I’m excited about the next phase of the organization and what we will do in the next 6 years and beyond. This fiscal year, we not only have the activities of our two core programs, Experimental Design and Math and Science Career Academy, but we are expanding our programs through relationships with other nonprofits. These relationships include:

- Re-establishing our partnership with Cool Girls to engage elementary and middle school girls in Atlanta in hands on STEM activities
- The 1st Annual STEMposium at the Life is Living Festival on October 8 in Oakland with Youth Speaks Inc and other San Francisco Bay Area nonprofits
- Serving as an exhibitor for the US Science and Engineering Festival in Washington DC in April 2012

In order for our organization to continue to make a difference in the lives of children and create the future pipeline for the STEM workforce, we need your help. I encourage you to donate, volunteer, use GoodSearch, GoodShop and GoodDining, connect with us via social media and spread the word to your networks about who we are and what we do.

For more information about the organization, our history, the staff and boards visit our website at http://www.semsuccess.org/aboutsem.html

Upcoming Events

2nd Annual San Francisco Bay Area STEM Career Fair and Exhibition Saturday, March 3, 2012 10am - 2pm Laney College Student Center;

5th Annual Atlanta STEM Career Fair and Exhibition, Saturday, May 19, 2012, 10am-2pm Georgia Institute of Technology Student Center Ballroom
In my opinion, one of the most glamorized careers in television in recent times is forensics. Every crime fighting drama has an element of science to aid in the investigation and apprehension of the bad guy or exonerates the wrongly accused. As a representative of the forensic community it is important for us to reach the public. This outreach is mostly regarding education; educating those to the field of forensics and the capabilities of the science in field. We strive to educate not only those who are connected to forensics such as attorneys and police investigators but also the young impressionable minds from high school to college. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory - Forensic Biology Discipline has found a medium to do just that by partnering with SEM Link.

In 2008, I received an invitation to participate in a career exhibition that was being sponsored by SEM Link on a Saturday morning in May. The Crime Lab’s Forensic Biology Division is mainly a Monday through Friday (8am-4:30pm) work schedule so finding individuals to participate in a career exhibition on a Saturday was a little challenging to say the least. None the less, I along with another analyst decided that this venture may be worth the investment of time. Four years later I found that this decision still holds true, participating in the SEM Link Career Fair and Exhibition has truly been worth the investment of time. We have been able to reach a vast number of students with the opportunity to expose them to the science profession of forensics. Allowing them to come face to face with the same scientists that they have seen on the television using saliva and DNA to solve crimes, is both exciting and educational. Not only are students enthusiastic about the experience but this may plant a seed of curiosity or nurture an interest in a career in sciences.

I believe that allowing a student the opportunity to discover an interest and exposure to utilizing this interest professionally is an important part of development. I can recall having a love for all things science starting as young as a student in the 2nd grade. Whether this was spending hours in the library reading books on astronomy, meteorology, zoology or biology; or simply watching television shows on PBS where the topic was life in the ocean. I found and have maintained this attraction to the sciences. SEM Link’s Career Fair and Exhibition sets a stage for a young student to discover an interest by having professional partners such as the Crime Lab expose them to a variety of careers in science, engineering and mathematics. STEM careers are now in a position to continue changing the direction of the world. Whether discovering a new source of fuel with biotechnology or using biology to enforce the law with forensics, a young student can discover the start of a path to the rest of their life.

Participating with the SEM Link program as a representative of the GBI Crime Laboratory has been a valued experience. The partnership has allowed for us to expose, educate, and encourage young students in the field of forensic biology and other disciplines in forensics. It is our hope that by our involvement that we spark and nurture the interest of a young student in a career of not only forensic science but other science, engineering and mathematics professions, thus opening a door to their future.

Cleveland L. Miles
GBI Forensic Biologist

Mr. Cleveland Miles earned a Bachelors of Science in Biology from Fort Valley State University in 1999. He began his 11 year career with the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) as a Laboratory Assistant in the Drug Identification Department and is currently a Forensic Biologist and Assistant Manager at the GBI Headquarters Crime Laboratory. Mr. Miles is often called as an expert witness for court trails and is a contract auditor for compliance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA testing at laboratories throughout the country. He is also a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists.

For more information about how your organization can help us “unveil potential through exposure” by becoming a corporate partner visit our Corporate Partners Page at http://www.semsuccess.org/corporatepartners.html

Corporate Partner

HIGHLIGHT

For more information about how your organization can help us “unveil potential through exposure” by becoming a corporate partner visit our Corporate Partners Page at http://www.semsuccess.org/corporatepartners.html
There is a diversity of opportunities for individuals or groups that want to give of their time and/or professional expertise to help the organization achieve its mission.

- **Career Exploration Activity Leader (career fair exhibitor, career day volunteer, career panels, etc)** - Individuals that volunteer for this position are STEM professionals, undergraduate or graduate students that expose K-12 students to their careers at schools, community organizations and at SEM Link events.

- **Hands on Activity Leader (after-school programs, summer programs, special events and classroom activities)** - Individuals that volunteer for this position must be comfortable enough to engage students in hands on STEM activities at schools, community organizations and at SEM Link events. Individuals can have their own activities or implement activities provided by SEM Link.

- **Marketing and Advertising (including social media)** - This volunteer opportunity is a virtual one that can be completed by individuals in any geographic location. Individual will assist with the development and implementation of marketing and advertising strategies for the organization and its special events.

- **Resource Development (fundraising, in-kind donation, volunteer recruitment)** - This volunteer opportunity is a virtual one that can be completed by individuals in any geographic location. Individuals will assist the organization with obtaining monetary and non-monetary resources for the organization.

- **Public and Community Relations** - This volunteer opportunity is a virtual one that can be completed by individuals in any geographic location. Individuals will assist the organization in implementing its public and community relations plan.

- **Special Event Coordination** - This volunteer opportunity has virtual opportunities but also requires individuals in Atlanta, Georgia and San Francisco Bay Area. Individuals will assist with the pre-event, event day and post event logistics for our special events.

- **STEM Fair Project Judges** - Individuals that volunteer for this position must have a STEM background and will serve as a judge for school, district, and regional fairs. The fairs usually require judges to serve for at least one full day, but no more than two days.

- **STEM Fair Project Mentors** - Individuals that volunteer for this position must have a STEM background and serve as individual or group mentors for a math or science fair project. Mentors will teach students how to design and conduct an experiment for a math or science fair project. SEM Link has an Experimental Design Handbook, which should be used to guide students through this process.

To sign up for one or more of these volunteer opportunities, visit http://www.semsuccess.org/volunteer.html

---

**SEM Link Wish List**

“The future which we hold in trust for our own children will be shaped by our fairness to other people's children”

- Marian Wright Edelman

There are a diversity of ways that you can make a difference in the lives of children based on the resources available to you, the time you are able to devote and your professional expertise.

- Netbooks/laptops/tablets
- Wireless printer
- LCD projector
- Lab equipment (glassware, mini-microscopes, pipettes)
- Gloves (latex and non-latex)
- Display boards
- Composition notebooks (lined and with graph paper)
- Calculators
- Scientific calculators
- Gift cards (Dollar Tree, Walmart, Target, Office Depot, Home Depot, Starbucks, Amazon, Visa etc)
- Free passes to Science & Children Museums

Any items from the wish list that you will be donating to SEM Link should be mailed to us at P.O. Box 30441, Oakland, CA 94604. Your donation of items to the wish list is considered a tax deductible contribution to the organization based on the monetary value of the item.
“Donate Your Lunch Money” - Individual Donor Campaign

Research of philanthropic giving shows that approximately 60-80% of the funds that non-profits receive that provide the resources necessary to achieve their mission comes from financial contributions made by individuals. That’s why it’s so important that we get as many individuals to care enough to make a financial contribution to provide the resources necessary for us to achieve our mission. Our individual donor campaign is named “Donate Your Lunch Money” because we want people to know that a small amount of money such as your daily lunch money (approximately $5) can truly make a difference in supporting the mission of a nonprofit organization such as SEM Link. We also accept larger donations as well. All financial contributions you make to the organization are tax deductible. Donations are accepted on a year-round basis and we have an easy process to help you with the donation process, visit the website below to make your financial contribution today.

http://www.semsuccess.org/donation.html

Ways to Donate

GoodSearch.com or GoodShop.com or GoodDining

Help us raise money by searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo), shopping online with GoodShop.com or dining out with GoodDining. You can register via your social networks such as Facebook or Twitter or you can download our Goodsearch tool bar for Mozilla Firefox and Internet Explorer browsers.


Contact Us

P.O. Box 30441
Oakland, CA 94604
Email: info@semsuccess.org
Phone/Fax: 888.600.6294
Website: www.semsuccess.org