



# Igniting Lifelong Passion for STEM

**2021 Annual Report**

## **Mission**

The mission of Girls 4 Science is to enrich the lives of girls through early exposure to the study of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and women of color practicing in STEM fields; hands-on problem-based learning and mentorship for careers in STEM fields.

## **Vision**

Girls 4 Science endeavors to create a sustainable pipeline for women of color in STEM careers.

## **Saturday STEM Academy**

Girls 4 Science fulfills its mission through its Saturday STEM Academy, which provides hands-on experiential learning and mentorship in STEM for girls age 10-18 years from Chicago and its surrounding communities. The Saturday STEM Academy's innovative program model is based on evidence that science exposure and increased science literacy will equip young girls with the knowledge and confidence needed to pursue study in the sciences and careers in STEM.

## Year Two of the Pandemic

Girls 4 Science had a successful year and introduced enhancements to its Saturday STEM Academy. Online programming continued throughout 2021 and attendance was at or near capacity. Beginning with the Winter session in January, the high school and middle/elementary school girls attended separate classes, which provided more age-appropriate curriculum and activities. We thank the Avantor Foundation, which provided a one-year grant to support the high school program.

We welcomed three new Board members and provided a record 10 scholarships to high school seniors. Girls 4 Science Alumni held an inaugural meeting in March, and in the summer hosted a Virtual Mixer with the Saturday STEM Academy high school students, which featured a workshop on financial literacy and recommendations on budgeting for college.

Girls 4 Science saw record revenues in 2021, thanks to the generosity of our corporate, foundation and individual donors, which we are pleased to recognize in this annual report.

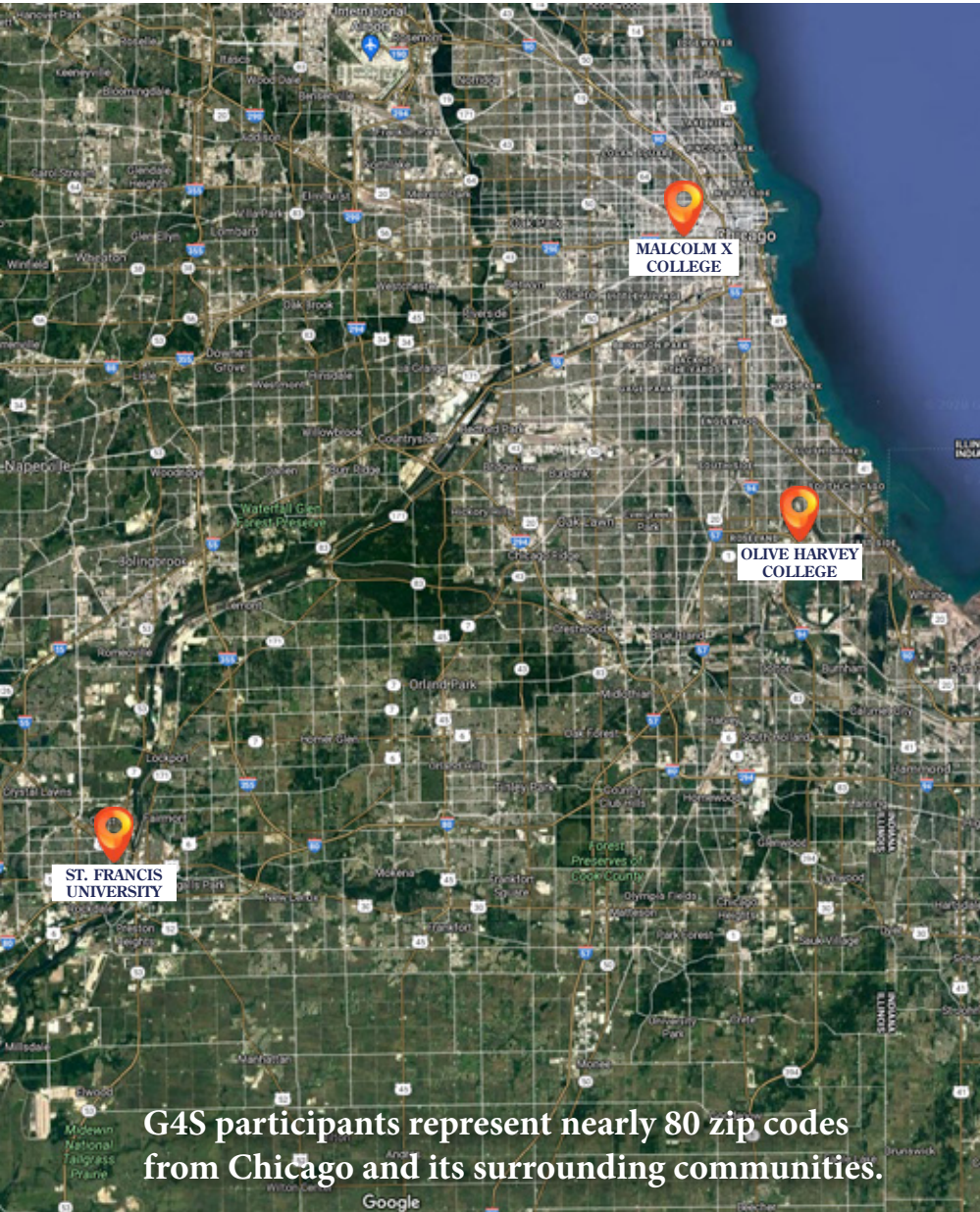
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie Lomax". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Founder & Executive Director  
Girls 4 Science



## Throughout Chicago And Beyond



G4S participants represent nearly 80 zip codes from Chicago and its surrounding communities.

## 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

### Saturday STEM Academy

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| # Participants  | 397                            |
| New Registrants   | 157                            |
| Elementary/Middle School (grades 4-8)                           | 258 (65%)                      |
| High School (grades 9-12)                                       | 139 (35%)                      |
| # Zip Codes represented   | 78 Chicagoland, 6 Out of State |
| American Indian, Alaska Native, Other                           | 1 (<1%)                        |
| Asian (including Indian subcontinent, Middle East, Phillipines) | 37 (9%)                        |
| Biracial  | 12 (3%)                        |
| Black/African American (including Africa and Caribbean)         | 263 (66%)                      |
| Hispanic/Latina   | 41 (10%)                       |
| White (including European Ancestry)                             | 34 (9%)                        |
| Prefer not to say   | 9 (2%)                         |

## GIRLS 4 SCIENCE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Girls 4 Science is excited to announce three new members joined its Board of Directors in 2021:  
**Susan Rogers, MD, FACP, Riva R. Trivedi and Jacqueline Williams.**



**Susan Rogers, MD, FACP** is the President of Physicians for a National Health Program, which advocates for universal, comprehensive single-payer national health insurance and believes that access to high-quality health care is a right of all people and should be provided equitably as a public service rather than bought and sold as a commodity. Dr. Rogers recently retired from Stroger Hospital of Cook County where she was co-director of medical student programs for the Department of Medicine and received numerous teaching awards from students and residents.

Dr. Rogers is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Rush University, where she continues to be an active member of the Committee on Admissions. She is a past co-president of Health Care for All Illinois, was Medical Director of the Near North Health Service Corp, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Chicago, and remained on its board for many years after she stepped down as Medical Director. Dr. Rogers is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a member of the National Medical Association.

Rogers received her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed her residency at Cook County Hospital, where she served an additional year as Chief Resident.



**Riva Trivedi** grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and had a passion for STEM since her high school days at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. She joined the Girls 4 Science Board of Directors in 2021 and is an active member of the Finance & Audit Committee.

Currently, Riva is a private equity Senior Associate focused on healthcare investing at Waud Capital Partners, a private equity firm based in Chicago. Prior to joining WCP, Trivedi was an investment banking analyst in the Healthcare group at RBC Capital Markets.

Ms. Trivedi holds a B.S.B.A., magna cum laude, in Health Sector Management & Policy, Finance, and Legal Studies from the University of Miami. She completed multidisciplinary coursework in both business and science. After graduating, Riva went to New York to work in healthcare investment banking. While in New York City, she also advised local entrepreneurs as a pro bono consultant, specifically on two projects in medical technology and early education. She will be an MBA candidate at Harvard Business School in 2022. In addition to her involvement with Girls 4 Science, Riva is an Advisory Board member of La Rabida Children's Hospital and the NorthShore University HealthSystem.



**Jacqueline Williams** is Executive Director of the African American Arts Alliance, a position she has held since February 2021. Jackie has spent more than 25 years in Chicago's philanthropic community as a development director for several non-profit organizations – including the DuSable Museum of African American History, South Side Community Art Center, Lincoln Park Zoo and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – and has raised millions of dollars to support the arts and African American student education.

Jacqueline is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, served as President of the Black Alumni Network for four years (2012-2016), and actively worked with incoming first-generation students to prepare for university life. As an alumna, one of her proudest moments was working to establish Illinois' first All-Classes Black Alumni Reunion in 2008.

## STUDENT RECOGNITION & AWARDS CEREMONY

The Student Summer Recognition and Awards Ceremony was held August 14, 2021, on the Zoom platform. The program featured a keynote speaker, the awarding of the Linda McGill Boasmond college scholarships and the presentation of certificates to the girls who participated in the Saturday STEM Academy. Girls 4 Science Program Coordinators, volunteers and mentors were also recognized. The Student Recognition & Awards Ceremony was sponsored by The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation.

### Keynote Address



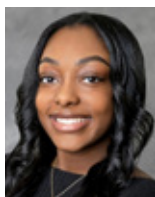
The keynote speaker was **Ruby Mendenhall, PhD**, Professor of Sociology, African American Studies, Urban and Regional Planning, Gender and Women's Studies and Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Mendenhall is currently directing the STEM Illinois Nobel Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, which provides students of color unprecedented access to computer science and other STEM fields. The Nobel project is also a pathway program to medicine and Nobel Scholars will be trained to become Community Health Workers and Citizen Scientists. Mendenhall's research examines how living in racially segregated neighborhoods with high levels of violence affects Black mothers' mental and physical health using surveys, interviews, crime statistics, police records, data from 911 calls, art, wearable sensors and genomic analysis. She also examines Black mothers' resiliency and spirituality.

## LINDA MCGILL BOASMOND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

A record 10 Girls 4 Science high school graduates each received \$1,000 Linda McGill Boasmond Scholarships at the Student Recognition & Awards Ceremony.



**Sydni Branch**  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Major: Biology or Pre-med



**Cailyn Brookens**  
Michigan State University  
Major: Early Childhood Education



**Reina Carter**  
Illinois State University  
Major: Mathematics



**Brooklyn K. Denman**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Major: Computer Engineering



**Karmon Hearan**  
Malcolm X City College of Chicago  
Major: Nursing



**Rebecca Janovsky**  
North Park University  
Major: Chemistry



**Kyndal Maclin**  
Morgan State University  
Major: Computer Science



**Kennedy Morris**  
University of Michigan  
Major: Earth and Environmental Science



**Anise Puckett**  
Spelman College  
Major: Economics



**Lina Spielman**  
Moraine Valley Community College  
Major: Polysomnographic Technology



Since 2013 Girls 4 Science has provided more than \$30,000 in scholarships for high school seniors who have completed at least 12 weeks of the G4S program and are applying for undergraduate study in a STEM field. Many thanks to Linda McGill-Boasmond and the Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation for funding the 2021 scholarship opportunities through Girls 4 Science.

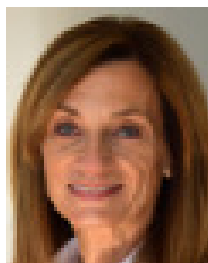


**Linda McGill-Boasmond** was the founding Chair of the Girls 4 Science Board of Directors and has funded the scholarship program since 2018. She is owner, President and CEO of Cedar Concepts, a manufacturer of chemicals for the personal care, home, agriculture and aerospace industries, among others. McGill-Boasmond runs the country's first and only African American, woman-owned chemical manufacturing plant.

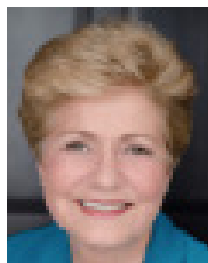
### Linda McGill-Boasmond Scholarship Recipients

| Year | Name             | College                                  | Major   |
|------|------------------|--|---|
| 2013 | Darcell Creswell | Western Illinois University              | Graphic Communications  |
| 2013 | Leona Barnes     | Alma College                             | Art, Anthropology   |
| 2014 | Brooklyn Payne   | Wilmington College                       | Biology   |
| 2016 | Sairyia Jemison  | Northern Illinois University             | Engineering/Industrial Management                               |
| 2016 | Kenyana Tyiska   | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  | Biochemistry  |
| 2016 | Lauren Lomax     | Central Michigan University              | Recreational Therapy  |
| 2017 | Sydney Shaffer   | Milwaukee School of Engineering          | Civil Engineering/Environmental and Water Resources Engineering |
| 2017 | Nakia Chappell   | Marquette University                     | Neuroscience  |
| 2017 | Deasiah McIntosh | Eastern Illinois University              | Criminal Justice  |
| 2017 | Isabella Baumann | University of St. Thomas                 | Neuroscience  |
| 2018 | Nia Autman       | Northern Illinois University             | Biological Sciences   |
| 2018 | Eryn Brazil      | University of Michigan                   | Movement Science/Public Health                                  |
| 2018 | Sofia Santamaria | Joliet Junior College                    | Communications  |
| 2018 | Erika Jones      | University of Michigan                   | Aerospace Engineering   |
| 2018 | Aerial Shaffer   | Washington University in St. Louis       | Biology   |
| 2019 | Samaree Ames     | Richard J. Daley City College of Chicago | Computer Technology   |
| 2019 | Ariana McCray    | University of Kentucky                   | Biopharmaceutical Engineering                                   |
| 2019 | Morgan Pratt     | University of Illinois - Chicago         | Biology   |
| 2020 | RaMaya Johnson   | Augustana College                        | Pre-medicine  |
| 2020 | Summer Smith     | New York University                      | Biochemistry  |
| 2020 | Becky Harris     | Joliet Junior College                    | Biology   |

## GIRLS 4 SCIENCE 2021 SERVICE AWARD



Barb Pasulka



Janice Feinberg

The heartbeat of Girls 4 Science has been two incredible women, **Janice Feinberg, PharmD, JD**, President of the Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation and **Barb Pasulka**, accountant at KSMB Associates. The duo serve as Pro Bono Consultants and have invested hundreds of hours reinforcing Girls 4 Science finances, policies, procedures and practices for long-term stability. The impact of their commitment to Girls 4 Science has resulted in development and expansion of the staff and Board of Directors, an enriched student experience and financial growth. Girls 4 Science honored Janice Feinberg and Barb Pasulka with its 2021 Service Award at the Student Recognition & Awards Ceremony. The awards were presented by Girls 4 Science Board member, Monica Gordon.

## SATURDAY STEM ACADEMY

### High School Program Launched in 2021

Girls 4 Science began offering separate classes for high school students (grades 9-12) with the Winter 2021 Saturday STEM Academy session on Microbiology. Content is more rigorous with enhanced, age-appropriate curriculum, evaluation, and hands-on, experiential learning activities tailored to high school students. Girls 4 Science received a grant from the Avantor Foundation to support the Saturday STEM Academy high school program for one year, the Summer and Fall sessions in 2021 and the Winter and Spring 2022 sessions.



Avantor®, a Fortune 500 company, is a leading global provider of mission-critical products and services to customers in the biopharma, healthcare, education, and government, and advanced technologies and applied materials industries. Avantor believes that the best way to ensure the future of science is by investing in science education. Yet the number of students pursuing science and technology degrees, especially among women and minorities, is low. To help address this, the Avantor Foundation funds community-based organizations that teach science and technology to underserved high school students. The Avantor Foundation's mission is to create a better world by advancing science education and providing healthcare to those in need.

**NEW TIME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY**

**Calling All Girls 10 – 18 Years of Age ...**

**Saturday STEM Academy**  
6 Weeks of FREE science exploration, field trips, mentorship

**Saturdays: January 16 – February 20**  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (4th – 8th Graders)  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (9th – 12th Graders)

**GIRLS 4 SCIENCE**

Virtual Winter 2021 Session will explore **MICROBIOLOGY**

- Computer and internet are needed for remote access to the class.
- 25 students per location first-come-first-serve.

**3 Locations**

- Olive Harvey Community College – Chicago, IL
- Malcolm X Community College – Chicago, IL
- University of St. Francis – Joliet, IL

**REGISTRATION:**  
OCTOBER 15, 2020 (Returning Students)  
NOVEMBER 1, 2020 (New Students)

**ALL NEW and RETURNING Students Must Register @ [www.girls4science.org](http://www.girls4science.org) click on the REGISTER TAB**

*A Program Coordinator will contact you with the classroom number via email and phone message.*

Olive Harvey Program Coordinator –  
Natacha Carter ([natachacarter@ohc.edu](mailto:natachacarter@ohc.edu))  
Malcolm X Program Coordinator –  
Diana Swick ([dswick@malcolm-x.edu](mailto:dswick@malcolm-x.edu))  
University of St. Francis Program Coordinator –  
Sandra Duse ([sduse@stfrancis.edu](mailto:sduse@stfrancis.edu))

**OR CALL (773) 401-6685**

Certified Instructors • State of the art science laboratories • Increased cell content • Peer to peer mentoring

## Winter 2021 Saturday STEM Academy



Tenth grader Violet Jackson, of Orland Park, poses with her Microscope Kit.



Girls 4 Science kicked off 2021 with the Winter Saturday STEM Academy on Microbiology, which was a huge success. There were 84 middle school and 34 high school students who attended via the Zoom platform, including several girls from out of state. Students in 4th-8th grade attended class from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and high school students attended class from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Age-appropriate curriculum was developed for each group and Supplemental Materials were provided each week to enhance the learning experience. Students received their own 52-piece Microscope Kit, supplies to grow and study bacteria and a Laboratory Journal to record their observations.

Thanks to a donation from POWER Masks for Humanity, we were able to distribute PPE during the STEM Kit pick up.



The Winter 2021 session of the Saturday STEM Academy was supported, in part, by a grant from Camelot Illinois.

**NEW TIME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY**

**Calling All Girls 10 – 18 Years of Age ...**

**Saturday STEM Academy**  
6 Weeks of FREE science exploration, field trips, mentorship

**Saturdays: April 10 – May 15**  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (4th – 8th Graders)  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (9th – 12th Graders)

**GIRLS 4 SCIENCE**

Virtual Spring 2021 Session will explore **BOTANY / ECOLOGY**

- Computer and internet are needed for remote access to the class.
- 25 students per location first-come-first-serve.

**3 Locations**

- Olive Harvey Community College – Chicago, IL
- Malcolm X Community College – Chicago, IL
- University of St. Francis – Joliet, IL

**REGISTRATION:**  
FEBRUARY 28, 2021 (Returning Students)  
MARCH 7, 2021 (New Students)

**ALL NEW and RETURNING Students Must Register @ [www.girls4science.org](http://www.girls4science.org) click on the REGISTER TAB**

*A Program Coordinator will contact you with the classroom number via email and phone message.*

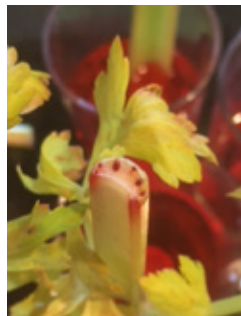
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Malcolm X Program Coordinator –  
Diana Swick ([dswick@malcolm-x.edu](mailto:dswick@malcolm-x.edu))  
University of St. Francis Program Coordinator –  
Sandra Duse ([sduse@stfrancis.edu](mailto:sduse@stfrancis.edu))

**OR CALL (773) 401-6685**

Certified Instructors • State of the art science laboratories • Increased cell content • Peer to peer mentoring

## Spring 2021 Saturday STEM Academy

The Spring 2021 session on Botany and Ecology introduced students to plant classification and structure, photosynthesis, fertilization, reproduction, growing plants without soil and principles of ecology, including ecosystems and the food chain. Students dissected and germinated seeds, planted and tracked the growth of seedlings and conducted experiments in phototropism, photosynthesis and how plants drink. Fifty-four middle school students and 24 high school students attended.



< How plants drink <



Bean embryos

**NEW TIME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY**

**Calling All Girls 10 – 18 Years of Age ...**

**Saturday STEM Academy**  
6 Weeks of FREE science exploration, field trips, mentorship  
Saturdays: July 10 – August 14  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (9th – 10th Graders)  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (9th – 12th Graders)

**GIRLS 4 SCIENCE**  
Virtual Summer 2021 Session:  
**COSMETIC CHEMISTRY**  
2021 High School Program Sponsor: **Avantor**  
Summer Grant Sponsor: **Parker**

- Computer and internet are needed for remote access to the class.
- 25 students per location first-come-first-served.

**3 Locations**

- Olive Harvey Community College - Chicago, IL
- Malcolm X Community College - Chicago, IL
- University of St. Francis - Joliet, IL

**REGISTRATION OPENS:**  
MAY 16, 2021 (For All Students)  
All NEW and RETURNING Students Must Register @ [www.girls4science.org](http://www.girls4science.org) click on the REGISTER TAB

**Cosmetic Chemistry**  
High school students will research and develop the process of creating new cosmetics, such as make-up, lotions or deodorants, using knowledge gained from the study of molecular interactions of growth substances.

Certified Instructors • State of the art science laboratories • Increased cell counts • Free to your mentoring

## Summer 2021 Saturday STEM Academy



Girls 4 Science student makes lip balm.

The Summer session on Cosmetic Chemistry introduced students to cosmetic science, types of cosmetics, the cosmetic industry and trends, surfactants and the science of soaps and lotions. Activities included making lip balm and lip gloss, glitter nail polish, hand sanitizer, lotion and soap. Forty high school and 58 middle school students attended.

The 2021 Summer Saturday STEM Academy was funded in part by a grant from the Parker Hannifin Foundation.

The Summer high school session is funded by the Avantor Foundation.

The Summer session concluded with the **Student Awards and Recognition Ceremony** on Saturday August 14.

**NEW TIME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY**

**Calling All Girls 10 – 18 Years of Age ...**

**Saturday STEM Academy**  
6 Weeks of FREE science exploration, field trips, mentorship  
Saturdays: October 2 – November 6  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (9th – 10th Graders)  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (9th – 12th Graders)

**GIRLS 4 SCIENCE**  
Virtual Fall 2021 Session:  
**ROBOTICS/BIOENGINEERING**  
2021 High School Program Sponsor: **Avantor**  
Fall Grant Sponsor: **bt**

- Computer and internet are needed for remote access to the class.
- 25 students per location first-come-first-served.

**3 Locations**

- Olive Harvey Community College - Chicago, IL
- Malcolm X Community College - Chicago, IL
- University of St. Francis - Joliet, IL

**REGISTRATION OPENS:**  
AUGUST 15, 2021 (For All Students)  
All NEW and RETURNING Students Must Register @ [www.girls4science.org](http://www.girls4science.org) click on the REGISTER TAB

**Robotics**  
(100 hours) the branch of technology that deals with the design, construction, operation, and application of robots.

**Bio-engineering**  
(100 hours) the use of artificial tissues, organs, or organ components to replace damaged or absent parts of the body, such as artificial limbs and heart pacemakers.

Certified Instructors • State of the art science laboratories • Increased cell counts • Free to your mentoring

## Fall 2021 Saturday STEM Academy



Girls 4 Science student works on building a robot.

Robotics/Bioengineering was the topic for the Fall session. Students learned the history of robots and robots in the workplace, coded a Sphero Mini Coding Device, assembled a 14-1 Solar Robot and used a STEM journal to document their weekly activities. The Fall session was attended by 56 middle school and 33 high school students.

The Fall session was funded in part by a grant from Breakthrough Technologies. The high school session was funded by the Avantor Foundation.

## GIRLS 4 SCIENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

On the February 4, 2021 episode of the **Greater Than Zero Percent** podcast Jackie Lomax, Founder/Executive Director of Girls 4 Science, discussed how important community involvement is for the development of future STEM leaders.

Truman College hosted a **panel discussion** on February 25, 2021 during Black History Month as a segue into Women's History Month. Executive Director Jackie Lomax and Girls 4 Science Alumna, Sairyia Jemison, were invited to discuss how exposure, experiences, and even implicit biases that young women experience can or may have impacted their beliefs about their ability to pursue and excel in the STEM fields.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Tau Psi Zeta Chapter presented its **Organization of the Year Award** to Girls 4 Science at its **Finer Womanhood Scholarship & Awards Presentation** on March 13, 2021.

**[Left]** Executive Director Jackie Lomax accepts the Organization of the Year award on behalf of Girls 4 Science from Natasha Carter, representative of the Tau Psi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Girls 4 Science Founder and Executive Director Jackie Lomax **[Right]** was honored with the **Chicago Defender Women of Excellence Award**, which celebrates local African American women who inspire others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service. They are women who exemplify extraordinary stature, poise and grace. These women do it all while maintaining the delicate balance of filling the roles of helpmate, mother, teacher and professional. The 2021 Class join an elite group of influential and inspirational women positively affecting their communities through their leadership. The 2021 honorees were formally inducted in a virtual ceremony live on the Chicago Defender's Facebook page on May 21, 2021.



Horizon Therapeutics – a corporate supporter of Girls 4 Science – and the Chicago Cubs announced a Legacy Partnership, which includes an innovative, citywide science camp and fair that allows middle and high school students to explore the connection between science and baseball as well as showcase their STEAM talents. Girls 4 Science was invited to the inaugural **Cubs STEAM Program** on October 2, 2021, at Wrigley Field. Seven Girls 4 Science students presented STEM posters and received a behind-the-scenes tour of Wrigley field, attended a panel discussion on STEM careers in the sports industry, met some retired Cubs players and saw exhibits that celebrated the Cubs history.

Seventeen Girls 4 Science students attended a three-day **Aviation Camp** at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL July 12-14, 2021. The camp was sponsored by Ingredion, Incorporated, and included flight simulation, airplane maintenance, flying drones, and flying an airplane assisted by Lewis University Aviation Ambassadors. The students enjoyed a flight, practiced flight simulation, watched drone demonstrations and toured an MD-80 aircraft.



**Cubs STEAM Program** [Top Left] Logan Lomax presents “Volleyball Catapult”; [Top Right] Faith Shelton on “Biochemistry”



The Girls 4 Science Advisory Board held its Double Good Popcorn fundraiser October 5-9, 2021. Girls 4 Science students, alumni, parents, volunteers, Program Coordinators, Board members and friends were able to sell \$17,278 worth of popcorn in just 4 days to 340 supporters in 29 states! 50% of each dollar sold benefits Girls 4 Science and will keep the Saturday STEM Academy free for all girls who want to attend.

## GIRLS 4 SCIENCE ALUMNI REPORT

The **Girls 4 Science Alumni** held an **inaugural meeting** on March 17, 2021, via Zoom and expressed interest in meeting two to three times per year, serving as mentors to the G4S high school students, volunteering for or speaking at the Saturday STEM Academy, being introduced to STEM professionals and exploring mentorship as they navigate graduate school and career opportunities.



The Girls 4 Science Alumni hosted a **Virtual Mixer** with the Saturday STEM Academy high school students on July 27, 2021. The guest speaker was Myiah Williams [**Pictured Left**], a 2021 graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Accounting and Finance. Myiah is an analyst at Peloton Consulting Group and a Girls 4 Science Volunteer. She led a workshop on financial literacy and recommendations on budgeting for college.

On October 28, 2021, Girls 4 Science hosted a **Virtual Resource Event** for alumni and high school students from the Saturday STEM Academy featuring representatives from several community partners who discussed opportunities for involvement with the organizations.



**GIRLS 4 SCIENCE**

**Alumni & High School Virtual Resource Event**

Thursday  
October 28, 2021  
7:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

**JOIN US!**

Hear success stories from  
G4S College Students  
G4S Volunteer Mentors  
Chicago State University Representatives  
UIC Representatives  
and many more ...

This will be an evening to enrich your future and inspire your educational journey

AWIS  
Chicago Healthcare Institute  
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY  
MCA  
Minorities in Healthcare

- Association for Women in Science Chicago chapter encouraged students and alumni to join its college chapter.
- Chicago Healthcare Institute, which focuses on the allied health professions, described its six-week phlebotomy technician training course and job opportunities for Certified Phlebotomy Technicians.
- Chicago State University informed the group about its RISE Academy and free tuition and fees scholarship for first year students.
- Mechanical Contractors Association of Chicago expressed the need for females to apply for its scholarship programs for students enrolled in Industrial Technology, Construction Management, Engineering, and other disciplines related to the Mechanical Construction and Service industry.
- Minorities in Healthcare described its year-long Mentorship Program for minority high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in healthcare.



**Welcome to the Girls 4 Science Alumni Association! This alumni community is a place of continued encouragement, support, and education for the Girls 4 Science alumni. We're excited to reconnect with you and learn about what you're doing now.**



The goal of the Girls 4 Science Alumni Association is to engage alumni with current Girls 4 Science students and programs. We provide professional development resources such as:

- Video Tutorials
- Interview Help
- STEM News
- Networking Opportunities
- Self-Assessment Tools
- Volunteer Opportunities

Resources will be available to alumni on the G4S website, quarterly newsletter, alumni Facebook group, and the alumni Instagram.

**Subscribe to our newsletter, join our alumni Facebook group, and follow us on Instagram to stay up-to-date with Girls 4 Science.**

### COMMUNITY

#### STAY CONNECTED

##### Join the Girls 4 Science Alumni Group on Facebook



This Facebook group is a place of continued encouragement, support, and community. Please join the group to stay up-to-date with Girls 4 Science, fellow alumni, and opportunities for continued education!

**[Join NOW!](#)**

##### Follow us on Instagram



Follow us on Instagram to connect with one another, engage with other Girls 4 Science members, and share your own exciting updates.

**[Follow us on Instagram!](#)**

##### Subscribe to the Girls 4 Science Alumni Newsletter

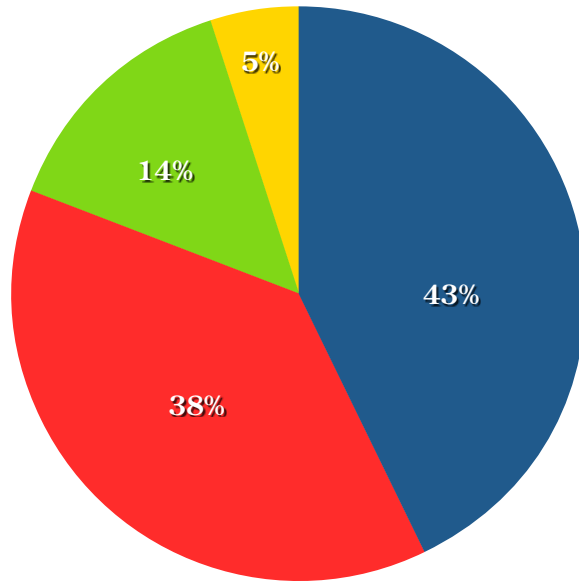


Subscribe to the Alumni Insider, the first-ever Girls 4 Science alumni newsletter! This quarterly newsletter will feature alumni spotlights, news and achievements related to women in STEM, and updates from current Girls 4 Science programs. This will also include information about local networking opportunities and provide you with tips to help you succeed in college, your careers, and beyond.

**[Subscribe to NOW!](#)**

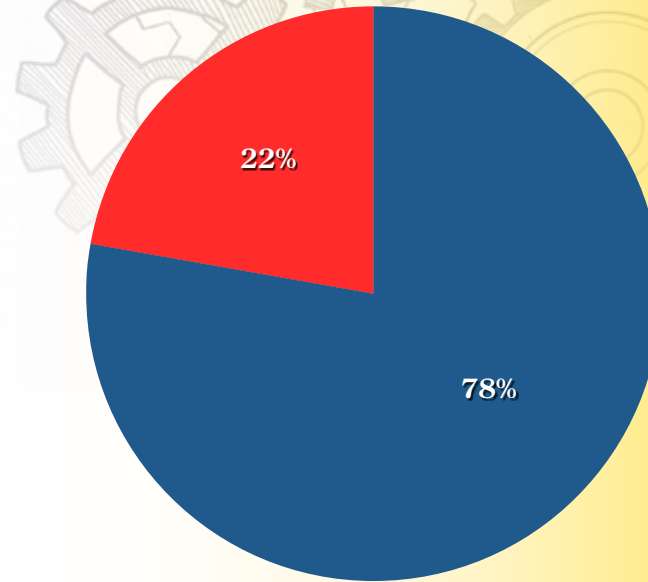
The **Girls 4 Science website Alumni Association** page provides professional development resources, including video tutorials on interview help, professional networking, resume writing and self-assessment tools, and volunteer opportunities with Girls 4 Science. G4S Alumni can stay connected by joining the **Girls 4 Science Alumni Group on Facebook** and **Instagram**, and subscribing to the **G4S Alumni Newsletter**, which will feature alumni spotlights, news, achievements related to women in STEM, and updates on current Girls 4 Science programs. The newsletter will also include information about local networking opportunities and provide tips to help G4S alum succeed in college, careers, and beyond.

**REVENUE**  
\$219,385



- Corporate Contributions
- Foundation Contributions
- Individual Contributions
- Other Income

**EXPENSES**  
\$177,876



- Program
- G&A

“My two daughters have participated in Girls 4 Science since 2015. Through this program, Ms. Lomax has afforded us an opportunity we otherwise would not have had. Programs like the Saturday STEM Academy cost thousands of dollars, but Jackie Lomax has found a way to provide this STEM education free of charge! At Girls 4 Science, my children have been exposed to topics in STEM that are relevant to everyday living. In the Winter 2021 microbiology session, my 13-year-old learned about COVID-19 and the mRNA technology used in the emergency use vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer. Relating STEM to real world circumstances has made my children interested, and Girls 4 Science puts them on an academic trajectory that makes their future even brighter.”

K.J. Muhammad, MS, CADC  
*Girls 4 Science Parent*

## WHY STEM?

In an ever-changing, increasingly complex world, it is more important than ever that youth are prepared to bring knowledge and skills to solve problems, make sense of information, and know how to gather and evaluate evidence to make decisions. These are the kinds of skills that students develop in science, technology, engineering, and math—disciplines collectively known as STEM. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics have always been the foundation for inspirational discovery and transformative technological innovation.



STEM education helps students gain the skills required to succeed in today's challenging world, including the ability to think critically and solve complex problems along with soft skills such as cooperation and adaptability. STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy, and enables the next generation of innovators.

STEM literacy and STEM skills are increasingly important for all people to succeed in the workplace and in their everyday

lives. To simply function as an informed consumer and citizen in a world of increasingly sophisticated technology requires the ability to use digital devices and STEM skills such as evidence-based reasoning.

STEM employment in the U.S. continues to grow at a faster pace than employment in other occupations, and STEM workers command higher wages than their non-STEM counterparts. STEM degree holders enjoy higher earnings, regardless of whether they work in STEM or non-STEM occupations.<sup>4</sup>

## WHY GIRLS?

Women comprise 50% of the American population and more than 50% of the college-bound population, yet they remain underrepresented in the STEM fields, especially women of color. While nearly as many women hold undergraduate degrees as men, they make up only about 30% of all STEM degree holders.

The gender gap in STEM begins with education. In childhood and adolescence, girls' interest in STEM is dampened by stereotypes and cultural norms that consistently portray ideal scientists, engineers and technology innovators as male. Girls participate in high level math and science courses at similar rates as males as they move into high school, and then a gender gap in participation starts as girls take fewer of the more advanced STEM courses as they get closer to college. This gap widens the longer girls are in school and **larger gaps exist between students of different racial and ethnic backgrounds or family income.**

There are several measures that can help build STEM identity

and interest among girls – especially girls of color – including extra-curricular and single-sex programs, Black and female role models and project-based instruction. Informal STEM experiences are useful to girls, as they provide unique opportunities to engage and connect with science in an inquiry-based manner without the academic requirements of memorization and standardized testing. Such programs can have profound impacts on girls at the time when they are involved, and these impacts relate directly to their confidence, attitudes, and future plans.

## WHY GIRLS 4 SCIENCE?

G4S targets girls age 10-18 years, primarily from low- and moderate-income communities. The Saturday STEM Academy’s innovative program model is based on evidence that science exposure and increased science literacy will equip young girls with the knowledge and confidence needed to pursue study in the sciences and careers in STEM.

Early exposure to STEM fields, specifically in an all-girls environment with hands-on, problem-based learning, can combat the negative stereotypes and attitudes that contribute to the under-representation of women in many STEM fields. This is especially true for girls of color. Increasing the opportunities for science exposure for girls will affect

change in multiple areas including self-esteem, post-secondary study and increased employment opportunities.

The **Girls 4 Science Saturday STEM Academy** employs strategies that have proven successful in increasing girls’ interest in, positive attitudes toward, and identification with STEM. The evidence-based aspects of the program include:

- Single-sex program.
- Science exploration through project-based instruction with emphasis on creativity, problem-solving, hands-on, small group experiential learning and teamwork, which fosters a growth mindset, self-confidence and collegiality.



- Field trips to corporations, organizations, cultural institutions and other sites that provide opportunities to link the concepts learned in the STEM curriculum to real-world applications, and expose participants to a range of STEM industries, career options and working STEM professionals, especially women, to redefine how they see STEM.

- Mentorships to introduce participants to female role models – especially women of color – who are professionals in STEM fields, to help girls see potential futures and develop resilient STEM identities.

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Girls 4 Science gratefully acknowledges all individuals, foundations, corporations, students, parents, Advisory Board members, and members of the Board of Directors who support the organization and tirelessly advocate on our behalf.

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“The Microbiology program that Girls 4 Science offered for the Winter 2021 session of the Saturday STEM Academy helped me strengthen my knowledge about what microbiology represents and how it is relevant in the world we live in. I really enjoyed the female STEM role models who attended each class sharing information about their careers. I am currently a member of the Class 2022 and I know that once I go off to college Girls 4 Science will be a part of my STEM history as a student. I look forward to returning to Girls 4 Science as a female STEM role model in the future.”

*Nyah Joyce  
Girls 4 Science Student*

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Joseph & Bessie

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“I started Girls 4 Science when I was in 7th grade. Before this program, science was always a second thought to me, but now I have gained so much knowledge in so many fields of science that it has become one of my favorite subjects. I will cherish the friends I have made and the teachers at Girls 4 Science for the rest of my life. Everyone is encouraging and friendly; they inspire each other to succeed and congratulate others on their accomplishments. G4S is an amazing program that encourages girls that they too can do great things no matter where they are from. I will treasure this experience my entire life and I hope all future girls who join the program will feel the same.”

**Lina Spielman**  
*G4S Student*



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