

3RD ANNUAL

Diversifying STEM Think Tank

at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

*For Diverse STEM Professionals, Educators, Community Organizers
and Diversity Inclusion and Equity Officers*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM | 1500 SULLIVAN ROAD, AURORA, IL

STEM EQUITY THINK TANK

This Diversifying STEM Think Tank will share the D-STEM Equity Model, which resulted from previous Think Tanks and continue to build upon it, providing strategies to enhance diversity in STEM education and careers. The factors that motivate Black and Latino students to engage in STEM will also be discussed, specifically related to the integration of a culturally responsive curriculum. With a focus on STEM equity, an increase in diverse STEM majors may occur, visibility of Black and Latino professionals in STEM careers may increase, and ultimately we may solve global problems in a culturally responsive manner. Thus, the 2020 Diversifying STEM Think Tank will focus on the development of a new vision, a culturally responsive, inquiry-based and problem-centered STEM curriculum to bring forth equity in STEM.

AGENDA

- 8:15 AM Check-In and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Opening Remarks
by IMSA President, José M. Torres, PhD
- 9:15 AM STEM Talks with the Experts
Moderated by Alexis R. Thomas, MBA, JD
- 10:45 AM STEM Talks Experts and Audience Discussion
- 12:00 PM Lunch and D-STEM Equity Model Reveal
- 1:00 PM Culturally Responsive STEM Curriculum
Development Thought Leadership Session
- 3:00 PM Departure

ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Alexis R. Thomas, MBA, JD is the Chief Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Officer at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA). She is also a National Diversity Trainer and Adjunct Instructor. As the daughter of an educator, Alexis has demonstrated a commitment to education and advocacy. Throughout her professional career, she has merged her business, education, policy, strategic partnerships, and DEI background to work and train on a regional and national level; making an impact for the students, educators, stakeholders, and the communities that they serve. Alexis has been fortunate to receive many leadership awards throughout her career for her work. Ultimately, she believes that each day you must start with your “why”, and everything else will fall into alignment.

REGISTER HERE: bit.ly/DiversifyingSTEM

**For more information, please contact Adrienne Coleman, EdD
at 630.907.5079 or acoleman@imsa.edu.**

STEM EXPERTS



Dr. Angela White has served as an educator for 15 years at various levels and currently serves as the Assistant Dean of Student Success for the College of Science and Technology at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Her current research interests, publications, and presentations give attention to racial identity, science identity, science self-efficacy, metacognition, and STEM achievement of African American students. As a strong advocate for the participation of African American females in STEM, Dr. White continuously engages in discourse and research that will promote greater access to STEM-related opportunities and recognition of African American females.



Dr. Pamela Leggett-Robinson is the Founder and Executive Director of PLR Consulting in Atlanta, GA., focusing on STEM program development, project management, and evaluation. She has 15+ years of higher education experience, which includes STEM academic and student success/support programming, STEM Leadership Coaching, institutional strategic planning, data analytics, educational programming (start-ups), and program evaluation. Her primary research and scientific presentations focus on student support programs in STEM undergraduate education and support programming for women of color in STEM professions.



Dr. Mark Carlson is Science Faculty at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA). Dr. Carlson has been a member of the IMSA science faculty since 2007 and teaches physics and works in the Student Inquiry and Research (SIR) program. During his tenure at IMSA, he has been awarded the Illinois Science Teachers Association/ExxonMobil Outstanding Teacher of Science Award, an award that recognizes extraordinary accomplishment in the field of science teaching. In addition, Dr. Carlson is involved in many activities outside of the classroom including an on-going student project to create a water filter for families in the developing world.



Dr. Mel Sabella is a Professor of Physics at Chicago State University. His research focuses on improving STEM education for underrepresented students by identifying and leveraging the resources, strengths and culture of this community to build inclusive classrooms. Dr. Sabella is the current President of the American Association of Physics Teachers and has served on the AAPT Committee on Diversity, the Physics Education Leadership Organizing Council, and the APS Committee on Minorities, the APS Forum on Education, and the AAPT Committee in Physics Education Research.



Dr. Tamara Pearson is Associate Director of School and Community Engagement at Georgia Tech's Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing. As former president of the Georgia Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators and regional representative for the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Dr. Pearson understands the importance of engaging multiple stakeholders within Georgia around issues of access and equity. Her current work focuses on partnering with schools and districts to help develop innovative curriculum and programs, as well as understanding how to best engage populations historically marginalized in STEM fields.