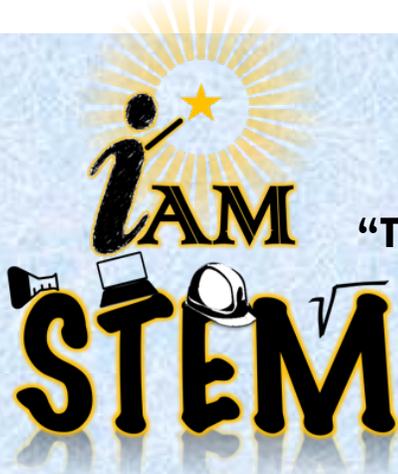


# 2018 Annual Report I AM STEM

“Transforming the face of STEM...one community at a time!”



Messages from **2**  
the Founder, Principal,  
and Onsite Director

## Caring & Sharing Learning School

**4** Highlights  
from I AM STEM  
Summer Camp

Mission, Vision, **3**  
and Demographics

**7** Evaluations  
and Testimonials

**8** Sponsors





## *A Message from the Founder*

It has been a pleasure to serve as the founder and executive director of I AM STEM Camps. I am grateful to all of the parents, students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and sponsors who made I AM STEM Camp 2018 a success. I am especially grateful for the strong leadership team at Caring and Sharing Learning School and Nasseeka Denis who have believed in the vision and supported the program 110%. Thank you to all of the individuals who came together to inspire and mentor this generation of scientists, engineers, inventors, entrepreneurs, and mathematicians. – Dr. Natalie King

## *A Message from the Principal*

As principal of Caring and Sharing Learning School and host site for I AM STEM Camp, this experience has taken our National Title 1 Distinguished School and National Blue Ribbon School to the next level. The entire Caring and Sharing Learning School community has embraced the curriculum and vision of I AM STEM. This camp is the most comprehensive summer program that I have been involved with in my 30 years of working with students and summer camps. I AM STEM Camp has had a tremendous impact in showing all children that they are capable of achieving success in STEM through various experiences. – Mr. Curtis Peterson



## *A Message from the Onsite Director*

It has been an honor serving as the onsite director for another amazing summer! In 2018, we welcomed over 200 scholars who were excited to learn and explore the different careers and areas of STEM. I look forward to seeing the program grow with new scholars discovering their identity in STEM. – Ms. Nasseeka Denis



**I...INNOVATORS.**  
Pushing forward to be creators...

*Mission*

To provide high-quality STEM programs that meet the needs of the whole child.

*Vision*

To transform the face of STEM... one community at a time!

I AM STEM Camp serves Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students by providing a comprehensive STEM curriculum including academic enrichment, mentoring, tutoring, and character development for the overall well-being of the participants.

In 2018, a total of **220** students were served at I AM STEM Camp at Caring and Sharing Learning School. Of the 220 participants, 71 were in the Pre-K-1<sup>st</sup> grade classes, 41 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes, 48 in the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, 44 in middle school, and 16 in high school.

**97%** of the participants were either Black or Biracial, and approximately **76%** of the participants qualified for free or reduced lunch.

I AM STEM lasted for 8 weeks (June 11<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018) for 5 days each week, 10-hour days (7:30am-5:30pm). With the exception of July 4<sup>th</sup>. That's **390 CONTACT HOURS!**



Transforming the face of STEM

Our 2018 I AM STEM Theme was “Exploring the Vibranium Within Us”. With the recent release of The Black Panther movie and its emphasis on science and technology, we would be remiss not to incorporate it into our summer theme!



Our teachers and staff participate in a 3-day Professional Development course.



On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lincoln Middle School opened the doors to their auditorium for our Culminating Ceremony where the young scholars shared some of what they learned this summer through performances and presentations. Keynote speaker Tiffanie R. Smith, is a doctoral candidate in the Human Centered Computing program in the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Department at the University of Florida. Ms. Smith shared about her passion for diversifying the fields of STEM by introducing computer science and engineering concepts to students, with hopes of them pursuing STEM at the collegiate level.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we continued the celebration with our Family and Friends Day where supporters of I AM STEM could visit the site and engage with the students. There were bounce houses, waterslides, games, food, music, and lots of fun!



**A...ACHIEVERS.**  
Being all that we can be...

### Thank you to the 2018 Leadership Team, Teachers, and Staff

**Leadership Team:** Nasseeka Denis, Simon Johnson, Verna Johnson, Luther Lee, Curtis Peterson, Tova Peterson

**Teachers:** James Booth, Vashawn Bowman, Walter Bowman, Sabrina DeSue, Tracey Hines, Wanda Lloyd, Jennifer Presley, DeSean Satcher, Tredina Sheppard, Mary Thomas, Tradina Thomas, Jeanee Williams

**Extracurricular Staff:** Angie Curtis, Valerie Hornes, Rayshawn Jackson, Marcy Maycock, Louvenia McDowell, Nakia Sheppard, Myles Sullivan, Devin Wilson

**University of Florida Interns:** Candace Weiss, Maggie Stokes, Jasmyn Sullivan

**School Administrative Support Staff:** Keturah Bailey-Acevedo

**High School STEM Interns:** Nylee Alston, Camryn Ford, Jacques Daniels, Jaquan Daniels, Tamani Dexter, Rei Hines Jr., Reyanna Hines, Nadja Holland, Sierra Jackson, A'Marria Mills, Alonna Phillips, Tyra Peterson, Charmaine Rice, Elana Rollins, and Gabrielle Welch, Jada Peterson, Charmaine Rice, Gabrielle Welch

# HIGHLIGHTS



## FINANCIAL LITERACY

The Central Florida Community Action Agency, Inc. sponsored financial literacy lessons for all of our scholars. Tiffany McKenzie, Director of Community Development, taught our scholars about the three important S's: spending, saving, and sharing!



## POWELL LABORATORY

The Powell Family Structures and Materials Laboratory is located on UF's East Campus and is part of the Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering. Our scholars learned about structural damage mitigation and human intervention when it comes to natural disasters. They were truly "blown away"!



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

All scholars engaged in community projects where they cleaned up creeks in their neighborhood. They learned how to be good stewards of their environment.



## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

UF IFAS Family Nutrition Program staff facilitated the Kids in the Kitchen curriculum by teaching our scholars about nutrition and how to make healthier meal choices.



## SCIENCE ENCOUNTERS

During Science Encounters, our scholars explored concepts varying from Newton's Laws to the cohesion properties of water. They also dissected owl pellets, created balloon rockets, and dug for real shark teeth!



## COLLEGE TOUR

High School I AM STEM interns traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, where they visited Georgia State University and engaged in STEM activities facilitated by Dr. Natalie King. They also participated in the Foundation for Economic Education's entrepreneurship and leadership institute at Emory University, and ended the 5-day trip with visits to the Civil and Human Rights Museum and other historic sites.



**M...MOTIVATED.**  
To fulfill our purpose and destiny...

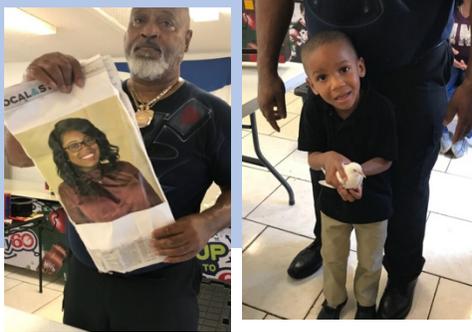
## MEDIA



Ten high school scholars were selected to participate in the Summer Media Institute at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications from Sunday, June 24th - Friday, June 29th, 2018. The Summer Media Institute is a six-day, five-night camp where students are immersed in the world of journalism and communications. Students attended classes taught by UF faculty, industry-leading professionals, and UF students. They also attended keynote lectures with communications experts from across the country.

## MAGIC

Gainesville's very own B-Magic put on several wonderful magic shows for our scholars, and they enjoyed every moment!



## HEALTHCARE

Two of our high school scholars, successfully completed the Health Care Summer Institute at UF College of Medicine. They were selected to participate in this highly competitive and rigorous program where they stayed on UF Campus for 4 weeks, shadowed health care professionals, and engaged in an SAT prep course



## SWIMMING & TENNIS LESSONS

In partnership with the City of Gainesville, all students were provided with swimming lessons at a very low cost. Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association (GACTA) provided tennis lessons for all children at minimal cost. Physical activity and healthy lifestyles are essential to the wellbeing of our children.



## PLANETARIUM & ZOO

Santa Fe College East Gainesville Instruction and Community Outreach sponsored 60 scholars to visit the Kika Silva Pla Planetarium and the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo.



## AGILE TRAINING

Our high school scholars participated in an Agile for Kids training session at the Cade Museum on July 9th where they learned about what it takes to start their own company. They also learned how to collaborate effectively on projects to design new technologies and how to improve their designs.



**I AM STEM.**  
Science and technology...

## GAINESVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

To provide access to children who could not afford to attend camp, executive director, Pamela Davis, provided children who live in property owned by the Gainesville Housing Authority with scholarships. They also provided use of their vans to transport children to and from field trips and off-campus activities.

## TEACH ME TO DANCE!

This summer, our very own Wanda Lloyd, and the Gainesville Chapter of Smooth Flava Dance hosted a successful Teach Me to Dance fundraiser. From the Meet and Greet to the banquet and workshops, it was a weekend of dance, fun, and fellowship. Mrs. Lloyd's clear vision, fearless leadership, and selfless service to BLSSD Future and I AM STEM Camp helped raise over \$5,000 with this spectacular event!



## ROOTS

Raising Our Offspring To Succeed (ROOTS), chaired by Kizzy McCray-Sheppard, is I AM STEM's parent volunteer group. Its mission is to institute and sustain a close relationship between the parents, staff, and scholars in the camp. During the summer, the group hosted several meetings and fundraisers in efforts to keep the cost of the camp low for all families.

## ...AND MORE!

There are many others who contributed to the success of I AM STEM Camp, but this is an overview of how organizations and individuals came together to make a program, that is not funded by any large county, state, or federal grants, a success.



**I AM STEM.**  
Engineering and math; these are for me...

# EVALUATIONS & TESTIMONIALS

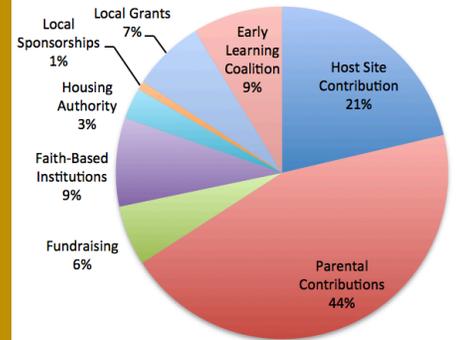
Dr. King engaged in dialogue with all stakeholders – parents, students, teachers, school administration, and sponsors and has used this information to further develop the program. In addition, program evaluations were administered to parents of which we received 38 respondents. Table 1 provides highlights from those evaluations.

Table 1: Highlights from the 2018 I AM STEM Camp Evaluations (38 parental respondents)	
95%	Strongly agreed or agreed that the teachers and staff were welcoming
89%	Strongly agreed or agreed that the program met their expectations
82%	Strongly agreed or agreed that the curriculum was useful and pertinent
84%	Strongly agreed or agreed that teachers and staff provided a comprehensive curriculum
82%	Strongly agreed or agreed that program objectives were identified and followed
95%	Strongly agreed or agreed that the program objectives & activities were appropriate for the camp
What did you find most useful?	
"Science projects"; "Increased social skills"; "Tennis lessons for African American students"; "swimming"; "Math skills"; "Teachers were so patient with my kids. They enjoyed coming everyday."	
What did you like best about the summer camp?	
"Mrs. Lloyd was the perfect teacher for my son."; "The staff really care."; "Dissections especially!"; "Implementing STEM into fun activities and music the kids can relate to."; "Times of the program"; "My child learned more in 6 weeks than he did in 3 years of being somewhere else. Thank you!"; "The opportunity to be exposed to science and math during the summer."; "Location and staff"; "My daughter's confidence is improving in her academic ability."; "Building condience."; "Ms. DeSue!"	

I AM STEM Camp was not funded by large county, state, federal, or foundation grants. This program was truly a community effort in that local organizations, community members, non-profit and for-profit organizations contributed to support one of the few informal STEM programs in the East Gainesville, FL community.

With these structures in place, parental contributions consisted of less than 45% of the direct costs of the program. Direct costs for 2018 were around \$85,635.50 (this figure does not include the numerous in-kind donations and sponsorships for experiential STEM learning that were provided by informal science institutions and industry).

Figure 1: 2018 Funding Structure

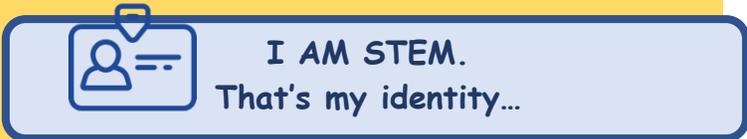


"I AM STEM is the BEST program in the city of Gainesville. It is very structured, educational, and provides young children to teenagers with a well-rounded experience. I refer this program to parents all of the time and encourage them to register their children. I am more than 100% satisfied with the experiences that my daughter has been afforded through her participation in I AM STEM." –

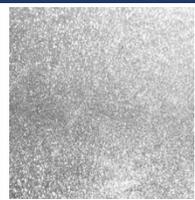
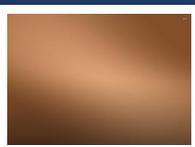
Ms. Eleanor Mills, *I AM STEM Parent*

"I have had the privilege of participating in I AM STEM for the past few summers. I had the opportunity to be an intern for the summer camp which allowed me to receive numerous volunteer hours. One of Florida’s graduation requirements is to have at least 100 volunteer hours, but with I AM STEM, I was able to triple that in one summer. As an intern, I was assigned to the 4-year old classroom where I collaborated with a teacher to facilitate math, science, and engineering projects. As I was teaching the younger children, I learned a lot during the process. I had to be patient with the children and do things right the first time around. I also had an opportunity to attend multiple college tours and engage in other summer institutes. I must say that these trips were extremely beneficial because I am graduating from Eastside High School this year and leaving for college. This camp has exposed me to many opportunities and has prepared me to be successful in school. Interning with I AM STEM has had a huge impact on me. I now realize the importance of giving back, because it gives hopes. I AM STEM gave me hope. Where there is hope, there is always a future!" --

Nadja Holland, *I AM STEM Participant and Intern*



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

	Diamond (\$2,500+)	ACPS Food & Nutrition Services Alachua County Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP) Grant BLSSD Future Caring & Sharing Learning School City of Gainesville First Presbyterian Church Gainesville Housing Authority Gainesville Regional Utilities Greenhouse Church UF College of Education Noyce Scholars UF College of Journalism and Communications United Church of Gainesville
	Platinum (\$1,500+)	Central Florida Community Action Agency, Inc.
	Gold (\$1,000+)	City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation
	Silver (\$500+)	Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association Lincoln Middle School Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of Florida Santa Fe College East Gainesville Instruction
	Bronze (250+)	Dr. John and Elizabeth Harvey Jeffrey Shapiro
	Ivory (\$100+)	Brandy Frenchman Charles & Dale Harris Carressa Hutchinson Andrew & Jill Ragsdale

Thank you to all of our in-kind sponsors. I AM STEM is truly a community effort and a testament of how we can make high quality STEM programming accessible to all students and their families if we replace spheres of silos with bridges of love.

## I AM STEM Media Coverage

<http://www.gainesville.com/news/20170809/campers-end-summer-filled-with-stem>  
<http://www.gainesville.com/news/20170712/night-of-stem-activities-for-parents-students>  
[https://social.shorthand.com/UF\\_COE/jyW3cdXN1u/i-am-stem-camp](https://social.shorthand.com/UF_COE/jyW3cdXN1u/i-am-stem-camp)

For more information, please contact Dr. King at [natalieking@iamstemcamps.com](mailto:natalieking@iamstemcamps.com), or you may visit our website [www.iamstemcamps.com](http://www.iamstemcamps.com).



**I AM STEM.**  
That's what I will be!