

Programs & Plans

MWM-KY Monthly Newsletter

The MWM-KY monthly newsletter continues to grow and engage local STEM mentors at a sustained rate. As the cornerstone of the MWM-KY communication plan, the newsletter continues to attract new members, disseminate news and key performance metrics from our partners, as well as share best practices related to equity and STEM mentoring.

<https://portal.millionwomenmentors.com/ky/about>.

In March, MWM-KY and KY NSF EPSCoR will host a virtual Pi Day celebration and mentor networking event for Kentucky's 2021 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Awardees. Fourteen tech-savvy high school womxn+ will be honored by Kentucky's chapter of the National Center for Women & Information Technology and paired with an MWM-KY mentor based on their education and career aspirations.

Steering Committee

- Czarena Crofcheck Ph.D.**, University of Kentucky
- Rosemary Fama**, University of Kentucky/KY NSF EPSCoR
- Sue Scheff**, American Association of University Women
- Andrea Lawrence**, Appriss
- Sarah Mardon**, University of Kentucky/Kentucky Academy of Science
- Olfa Nasraoui Ph.D.**, University of Louisville
- Vicki Penix**, Kentucky Community & Technical College System
- Kathy Plomin**, Lexington Fayette Urban County Government
- Susan Ryan**, Hardin County Schools
- Kristen Brennan Ph.D.**, Platinum Performance
- Elizabeth Farnsworth**, Kentucky Community & Technical College System/ NCWIT Kentucky
- Micaha Dean-Hughes**, University of Kentucky
- Emily Greene**, Boone County Schools
- Tanya Dvorak Ph.D.**, University of Kentucky
- Emese Galne-Farkas**, Lexington Montessori School
- Sheila Medina**, University of Kentucky/Gen-EV Racing
- Margaret Mohr-Schroeder Ph.D.**, University of Kentucky/FCPS STEM Advisory Council
- Mellisa Blakenship**, Kentucky Science Center

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Spotlight

FabFems Offers Exciting Mentoring for Girls in STEM



Kentucky native Dr. Cagney Elayna Coomer is a molecular biologist and geneticist breaking barriers and building girls confidence in STEM.

In 2020, Dr. Coomer became the first Black woman to receive a PhD from the department of biology at the University of Kentucky, where her research unlocked the secrets of two genes found in the retina. As a student Dr. Coomer started NERD SQUAD, a nonprofit group that encourages girls of color to become interested in STEM fields.

"I often was the only Black woman in my classes, and I'd ask why I was the only one," she said. "People would say people of color weren't interested in science. So, I decided to go out into the community to get kids interested — you can't get interested in something you're not exposed to."

About FabFems

FabFems are women from a broad range of professions in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). They are passionate, collaborative, and work to make the world a better place. Many girls have similar interests but aren't connected to adults who exemplify the STEM career pathway. This is where you come in. Create a FabFems profile to expand girls' career options, dispel stereotypes and spark their interests - just by being you. To find out more about being a role model or finding a role model, visit this site: <http://www.fabfems.org/>.

News & Events

Rise STEM Academy for Girls



Fayette County Public Schools is launching the Rise STEM Academy for Girls in 2020-21 because district leaders are confident that supporting girls in science, technology, engineering, and math in their formative years will build their confidence to more eagerly embrace these career pathways. The magnet school, which is housed in the former Linlee Elementary at 2420 Spurr Rd., initially welcomes 150 students in grades K-2 and then adds a level every year through eighth grade. This program will cultivate an environment where girls are encouraged to indulge their STEM interests through fun, accessible, and interactive project-based learning. Districtwide bus transportation will be available, and after-school programs are in development.