

## IF/THEN Champions Network Exploring the Journeys of Women in STEM Careers Chat Transcript May 28, 2025

Tiffani Cortez: integrating role models: using the videos and activities provided on the website in our club's meetings

Kimmaree - MOSI: Hi all! I'm the new Education Outreach Manager at MOSI.

Ronda Hamm, PhD: Inviting diverse guest speakers

Linda Zaruches: We created a comic book based on real STEAM professionals

Colleen Smith: Lunch and Learns with our interns as well as STEM Speed Networking for our youth advisory board

Renee Henry: Renee Henry, Terre Haute Children's Museum. Our summer camp staff are almost all college women who are studying STEM.

jroe: We use local role models during our annual Girl Power event. We have used the IF/Then Ambassadors in many ways--speakers, trading cards, signage, etc.

Madison Rohm Arizona Science Center: Maddy from Arizona Science Center. My job is running a monthly girls in STEM event for Arizona Science Center and we make sure to have Women and nonbinary individuals speak at these events and rotations for the participants. Each station also has a If/Then biography!

Janet White, MOSI Tampa: We use role models during our monthly Girls STEAM Mentoring Cafes with Middle School Girls

Ali Smurawa (she/her) - Neville Public Museum: Working with local stem individuals as guest speakers and guest program facilitators!

Dianefraser: Diane from Emerald Coast Science Center. We name all of our animals after scientists

Marina Philip, Explora (she/her): Marina here from Explora in Albuquerque, NM! I recently started in a brand new role at the museum specifically to bring local STEAM professionals of all kinds into our orbit for programming, events, etc.

kpeck: We incorporated information about women who worked on Hubble and at NASA into our member newsletter and on social media.

Emily Early (she/her) - NGCP: Complete the Annual Survey:

https://forms.office.com/r/6YRT5x6Lb0

Cassie Byrd: waaaattt!!! I was at Brooks AFB, too!!!

Amanda Fisher | (she/her) ASTC: That's so cool to hear how being an Ambassador has affected you, Jessica! <3

Jennifer Zurawicz: been trying to get MSI to go to C2E2 for years, I think it scares our media dept

Amanda Fisher | (she/her) ASTC: Wow! Some talented artists there!

Mitu Khandaker: 🌑 🌑 🌑 Jessica you are so awesome!

Replying: Emily Early (she/her) - NGCP: Seconded!

Replying: Ronda Hamm, PhD: Agree. You're such an inspiration.

Replying: Jessica Esquivel: greatness recognizes greatness! Ya'll are all BOSSES

Cassie Byrd: I'm a fan!!!



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Cassie Byrd: yay, x-files representing women in STEM!!!

Cassie Byrd: ...was going to ask about the fall out from gamer gate...

Ronda Hamm, PhD: Mitu- love your engagements that empower others. Congratulations on

your growing family.

Jennifer Zurawicz: Woot, Flintknapping

Cassie Byrd: I LOVE LOVE LOVE these STEM stories 💙

Jennifer Zurawicz: get to teach that this summer

Jennifer Zurawicz: link pls

Amanda Fisher | (she/her) ASTC: What a cool use of the technology!

Alex Young: Any resources on how to create a virtual tour?

Jessica Esquivel: that is so so cool!

Ronda Hamm, PhD: Sam- you continue to amazing me with what you can do with your skills

that you taught yourself!

Mitu Khandaker: 💙 🌑 😉 Sam, you're so cool!! And yesss for playful/gameful interventions to

get people into STEM!

Madison Rohm Arizona Science Center: what are the common reasons you hear girls say they

don't feel they belong in STEM spaces? or the barriers they have?

Cassie Byrd: What advice would you give your younger self?

Jennifer Zurawicz: could Samantha share a link to her article or suggested resources for photogrammetry (doing this with our collections dept, and learning it right now)

Replying: Samantha T Porter: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/advances-inarchaeological-practice/article/simple-photogrammetry-rig-for-the-reliable-creation-of-3dartifact-models-in-the-field/753D91969BF08647B78339827EDD2942

Replying: Samantha T Porter: If it's not currently open access feel free to shoot me an email at port0228@umn.edu 🙂. Well feel free to shoot me an email regardless!

Discovery World Team: Jessica- can you speak a little more about how you convinced the stakeholders in your organization to go out into the community to places like Wakandacon where they might not traditionally think to go?

Replying: Jessica Esquivel: I had been an integral science communicator in my org so my voice carried weight. I also collaborated with the inaugural wakandacon as a civilian and leveraged my experience in negotiating our collaboration w/ wakandacon. But it's really meeting the org where they're at and underscoring the value proposition.

Marina Philip, Explora (she/her): How does your outreach and advocacy work fit into your professional work? What advice would you give to professionals who want to get involved in outreach but either don't know where to start or don't feel supported by their employer?

Replying: Ronda Hamm, PhD: Reach out to those that have already done it or join events that are already planned. I started outreach in industry which wasn't supported to start but as they saw the impact and we gained traction we got more results. Reach out to me. I'm on LinkedIn.



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Cailee Smith, PacSci (she/her): A lot of us work in science centers and museums. What's an experience or content area each of you would like to see in science centers to help more girls and marginalized folx see themselves in STEM? (generally and/or related to your career path)

Itincher: Thank you all for a great presentation!

Samantha T Porter: You are smart. You are worthy. And you go this!

Mitu Khandaker: advice for both my younger self, and periodically to my current self (ⓐ) -- don't worry about what people think, keep sharing your work and be loud about it, even if you think it's not good enough!

Jessica Esquivel: don't be afraid to fail, as much as I felt I had to be perfect, giving myself the permission to fail, to learn, to ruminate, to fumble, makes me a better scientist

Ingrid Zabel: Thank you to the speakers - you are all so impressive and inspirational!

Jessica Esquivel: feel free to connect! jessicaesquivel@oyanova.com

Mitu Khandaker: yes feel free to email me! mitu@nyu.edu or add me on LinkedIn!

Cassie Byrd: Yay! STEM Play Workshops!!!! 💙

Samantha T Porter: Same for me! Port0228@umn.edu

Emily Early (she/her) - NGCP: You can find the info and RFP link here: https://www.astc.org/ifthen/champions-network/ (scroll down a bit)

Imagination Station: Thank you! Wonderful presentations! Kristen Peck (She/Her) Science Central: Thank you!

Renee Henry: Thanks to you all!

jroe: Thank you!