

# Lifestyle Science Technology Engineering Math Not Just For Geeks

Baltimore, MD

By Belinda Merritt  
Special to the AFRO

Over 400 middle and high school students embarked on the campus of the New Psalms Baptist church in anticipation of discovery and adventure in the world of STEM. The Sankofa Community Development Corporation in partnership with the STEMck planning committee, area businesses, and New Psalms Baptist church hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual STEMck conference on March 3.

Former astronaut Robert Curbeam held the young audience and parents captivated with his unique knowledge and insight in the role of the keynote speaker. He is currently vice president of Mission Assurance for Raytheon's Integrated Defense Systems. U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings attended the conference and acknowledged the importance of exposing our youth to career opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Historically, many African-American students do not pursue higher

education in STEM fields nor find encouragement or motivation from parents who do not necessarily recognize the hidden talent of their children. STEMck conference is held to expose youth in middle and high school to careers as scientists, mathematicians, and engineers, as well as, presenting the careers in creative fun workshops. Rocket Science and Flight, The Science of Super Heroes, and Slam Dunk: The Physics of Basketball were popular middle school workshops. Kinect with Microsoft-Xbox 360 Exposed, The Chemistry of Cover Girl, and Trauma 101 were popular high school workshops.

A special seminar gave parents insight on the importance of encouraging and challenging their children to raise their academic standards and to seriously consider careers in STEM fields. Rowe Price, Northrop Grumman, Baltimore Gas and Electric, The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Anysoy Technologies, Inc., National Pan-Hellenic Council Inc. of Metropolitan Baltimore and Vaughn Greene Funeral Services are proud community sponsors. The Right Rev. Walter S. Thomas is pastor of New Psalms Baptist Church.

Visit [www.stemck.weebly.com](http://www.stemck.weebly.com) and [www.ameritospace.org](http://www.ameritospace.org) for additional information about STEMck and event highlights.

John Murach,  
Director of Business  
Planning and Danielle  
Smith of BGE gave  
presentation on  
alternative energy and  
cars

Dr. Sylvester James Gates,  
Physics Professor, discuss  
the physics of football

Phoebé Tsoliant Carman Williams  
works with Sean Martin

STEMck planning committee  
members: Talib Horne, Patrick  
Johnson, Sandy Adams  
(chair), Jerry Archer, Jarrod  
Archer, Belinda Merritt, Genia  
Loving-Clash and Kafi Parker

Joe Barber, Director of  
Education Programs National  
Aquarium discusses sharks and  
dolphins with students.

Congressman Elijah Cummings  
and Robert Gurbam, former  
astronaut and Vice President,  
Mission Assurance for Raytheon  
Companies

Pete Gannon search for fossils  
with Sidney Roseborough  
and Annesa Rahim

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