Why Partnerships Matter and How To Make Them Work

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Supporting Culture & Community

The key partnership is one with the students and the communities in which they live.

- Meet the students where they are
- Create a safe space that’s nurturing, generates respect and love, and is inclusive
- Go forth and FIND the Scientists and other speakers/mentors who look like your students (get out of your own comfort zone)
- Attend your students’ extracurricular activities/monthly neighborhood walkabouts
- Learn about your students’ culture (which includes ethnic AND community)
- Create partnership with the parents (find out who they wanted to be when they were their child’s age)
Cultural Relevance Promotes Interest in STEM and Lays The Foundation For Building a STEM Identity Within Students

❖ When you include teachers, speakers, and mentors who resemble the ethnic and cultural makeup of the students, something magic happens: interest in the STEM fields AND interest in learning more about those STEM fields occur.

❖ By age 13, children have already begun to formulate an idea of themselves in the world. When STEM is not introduced early, teens do not have all of the data about who they CAN be when they begin to make choices about who they want to become.

❖ Use the Scientific Method on this observation: “There are not enough qualified people to fill the STEM job openings in US companies.”

Alyza Tavares, age 13. Here’s (August 3) she’s building a robot while being filmed for a show on NBC. Four weeks ago, she had no clue about what STEM was. Now she wants to be an engineer. She already IS an engineer.
How many Scientists do you see?