

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Weekly Newsletter

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This week is STEM Academy Week!

At MassBay, we have grouped all of our programs into seven "Academies," each of which represents a broad area of study. When you choose a program for your major, you become a member of an Academy. Think of your Academy as a community of professors and students who share your interests and goals. This week, we are recognizing and celebrating the STEM Academy!

Benefits for STEM Majors at MassBay

- STEM Starter Academy (SSA) Summer Program for new STEM students
- STEM Student Welcome & Introduction for new STEM students first week of fall semester
- Bi-weekly STEM Student Newsletter
- Membership in Blackboard organization, "STEM News"
- STEM Forums and Events that are open only to STEM students
- STEM Mentor Program matching STEM students with STEM professionals
- STEM-focused career assistance from the STEM Career Development Counselor
- Dedicated STEM Academic Advisor
- STEM Clubs
- STEM Scholarships
- On-campus/virtual paid work opportunities in the STEM Division
- Participation in the STEM Division's Bi-annual STEM EXPO
- Participation in Summer STEM Transfer Academy with 4-year state public institutions
- STEM Department Advising Sessions (fall and spring semesters)
- Support for participation in external STEM Conferences and Competitions



For a list of STEM degree and certificate programs, please visit this website: <https://www.massbay.edu/stem>.



STEM Mentor Program (SMP)

The STEM Mentor Program brings together MassBay Community College STEM students and regional STEM professionals to facilitate one-on-one mentoring relationships and provide substantive, skills-based programs and networking opportunities throughout the year.

The goals of the STEM Mentor Program are to nurture STEM students' academic success and support students' pursuit of academic and career aspirations by providing:

- Supportive mentoring relationships
- STEM-focused events and opportunities



In 2020-2021, 85 STEM professionals from 33 companies such as Sanofi, Intellia Therapeutics, US Food and Drug Administration/WEAC, MathWorks and others are enrolled as mentors to 87 MassBay STEM students.

Our program is particularly interested in enrolling underserved students and mentors who are of diverse backgrounds as well. As such, 63% of our mentees are from racial or ethnic minority groups; 42% are women; 21% are the first in their family to attend college; and 24% receive financial aid through the Pell grant. Our mentors are also diverse – 39% are women; 28% people of color; and 26% were first generation college students. All of our mentors have Bachelor's degrees, additionally 37% have a Master's degree and 25% have a PhD in their field.



Click here to read the latest STEM Mentor Program newsletter for mentees <https://conta.cc/3kHLICH>

Resources for students in the STEM Mentor Program are on:

Blackboard/STEM News/STEM MENTOR PROGRAM

In addition to being matched with a mentor, mentees also receive the benefit of stipends for educational and career related expenses, networking opportunities and scholarships for tuition.

For more information on the STEM Mentor Program, please visit: <https://www.massbay.edu/stem/mentor> or contact Tracey Gustafson (tgustafson@massbay.edu)

STEM Student Spotlight:

Adella Gilchrist

Engineering (AS) Program



I came to MassBay in the spring of 2019. Though I haven't spent much time at MassBay, I've changed a lot since that first semester. I graduated from Holliston High School in 2018 with little to show for my 4 years spent there. I was never engaged or involved in high school or anything academically oriented. I dealt with family issues during my last two years of high school which made it difficult for me to focus or prioritize my education and I struggled with my classes, regularly missing class and assignments. I lacked

motivation because I had no vision for my future, being so wrapped up in what I was facing in the present. After graduation, I took over a year off to work and "figure it out". When I finally decided to enroll at MassBay, I still had no idea what I wanted to do or why I was even going. I had no idea about my future and giving school another chance seemed like a good way to do it. Though it took a few majors to get here, now I'm an engineering student planning to transfer to a 4-year college's environmental engineering program. I'm passionate about the environment and hope to help mitigate the damage caused by the climate crisis once I'm in my career.

My experience at MassBay has by far exceed any expectations I had when I first decided to enroll last spring. The support and resources offered by the school are phenomenal and everything I needed to get started with my education after being out of school. One program in particular that I have benefited tremendously from is the STEM Starter Academy Summer Program. The summer program offers 2 weeks of math review before the beginning of the semester along with information about the school and resources available, the opportunity to meet and connect with faculty and other students, and a solid grasp of the fundamental math skills required for the rest of our college careers. As an engineering major, math is extremely important and the review I got from being a part of STEM Starter gave me much more confidence to start taking math classes than I would have had without it. While this year's program was run much different than in the past, as the entire program was conducted virtually, I thought the program did a great job adjusting to the new remote environment and providing an experience I believe to be just as valuable. Because of STEM Starter Academy, I was able to get involved with numerous other opportunities at the school that I may never have known about otherwise. I'm now part of the STEM Coaching program, where my coach, Valerie Kapilow helps me with course selection, transfer planning, and accessing support services and other resources at and outside of the school. Valerie also encouraged me to join the STEM Mentor Program, where I was assigned a mentor from the Army Corps of Engineers. My mentor has been great to talk to about the STEM field and given me a new career perspective I wouldn't have gotten otherwise. She provided me with guidance which will be useful throughout my college career and even helped me get in contact with an environmental engineer from her workplace so I can get a better idea of the career I am interested in. I wanted to be even more involved in the MassBay community, so I also joined the Student Government Association and the LEAD program. Doing these additional activities, especially in the online format, has helped me to feel involved and engaged. It's given me the opportunity to meet and speak with new people from all walks of life and learn skills that I will take with me wherever I go after my time here. Being involved in the community at MassBay has helped me to stay motivated academically and the additional support I have received from all of these programs is invaluable.

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MassBay Student Engagement

www.massbay.edu/studentengagement