

Background, Role and Objectives

The Role Model Initiative aims to address the need of industry to cultivate their future workforce, and the need of youth, particularly girls and populations traditionally underrepresented in STEM, to have role models and mentors in order to pursue STEM education and careers.



Role: Program Coordinator: Responsible for managing stakeholder involvement in the initiative, conducting outreach and awareness campaigns, event management, and media production

Objectives:

- Increase awareness of STEM role model programs in San Diego county
- Provide professional development opportunities for STEM professionals to strengthen their mentorship skills
- Improve mentorship accessibility for educators and students

Partners: Fleet Science Center: San Diego STEM Ecosystem, Women in STEM Working Group, San Diego State University Femineers, Fleet BE WiSE, Hermanitas MANA San Diego

Impact and Achievements

Role models are a proven way to keep girls in STEM, the initiative will create accessibility to role models & better mentorship skills.

Milestones:

- Role Model Initiative Training + FabFems @ Qualcomm
- Connect partner organizations & raise awareness via networking events and social media
- Established Role Model Initiative webpage
- Fulfill a niche during COVID 19 of enrichment for both STEM professionals and students learning from home



Next Steps / Key Outcomes

- a. Next steps: make all information and trainings accessible via webinar/online
- b. Strategies: maintain communication with partner role model organizations, maintain updated resource pool and trainings
- c. Conclusions: The Role Model Initiative will be a long-lasting collaborative effort to connect STEM professionals with educators and students



Patricia has an academic background in marine science, and has since focused her efforts on science communication as a means of advocating for sustainable living practices and environmental protection. Her role during this fellowship has allowed her to grow as a leader and create lasting relationships between STEM inclusion advocates in San Diego.

Patricia Fernandez, 2019-2020 Climate Corps Fellow



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