

2019-2021

IMPACT REPORT



BeSCIENCE

STEM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past three years, BeScience STEM has significantly expanded its influence by hosting pivotal STEM events across Sierra Leone, Ghana, and the UK in collaboration with key educational institutions like Birmingham City University. These initiatives have directly engaged over 13,700 students and educators, enhancing their exposure to STEM careers and providing them with essential skills for their professional development.



MISSION

To inspire and engage young people in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) through creative and interactive experiences.

VISION

To create a future where all young people have the opportunity and resources to explore STEM, regardless of their background.

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Patrons,

Reflecting on the past three years at BeScience STEM, we are filled with deep gratitude and a sense of accomplishment. From 2019 to 2021, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not only sustained our mission but also expanded our impact globally. Our journey began with the ambitious vision to make STEM education engaging and accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or location. Thanks to our relentless dedication and the unwavering support from our community, we have made significant strides in transforming this vision into reality.

In 2019, we embarked on an exciting expansion into Africa with our first international conference in Sierra Leone. This event was a landmark for BeScience STEM, setting a precedent for how we could engage young minds and introduce them to the vast opportunities within the STEM fields. The engagement was beyond our expectations, with over 2,700 students participating, signaling a strong desire for STEM education in regions most needing it.

Following the success in Sierra Leone, we hosted the STEM Social Conference in Ghana in 2021, another impactful gathering that brought together students, educators, and industry leaders. This conference not only bridged educational gaps but also fostered connections that will fuel future innovations and career aspirations for many young participants.

Our efforts were not limited to Africa. In collaboration with Birmingham City University, we tailored the “STEM 4 All” event to address the needs and challenges faced by students during the pandemic, providing them with the tools and confidence to excel in their future careers.

These milestones are not just ours but belong to every volunteer, partner, and donor who has journeyed with us. Thank you once again for your steadfast support and belief in our work. We invite you to continue this journey with us, to create a legacy of learning, empowerment, and innovation that will resonate for generations to come!

Warm regards,



Jessica Okoro
CEO, BeScience STEM



“ ”

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to every volunteer,
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KEY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES



STEM Social Sierra Leone (2019)

The STEM Social Conference in Sierra Leone in 2019 marked a significant expansion for the STEM Social brand into Africa, emphasizing inclusivity, innovation, creativity, and empowerment in education. Here's a detailed overview:

Key Speakers

- **The Vice President of Sierra Leone Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh** delivered a keynote address, highlighting the government's commitment to promoting STEM education as a national priority.
- **Jessica Okoro, the founder of BeScience STEM** and an award-winning business consultant, provided insight into innovative educational techniques.
- **Karimah Shaw**, a leading recruitment specialist, discussed strategies for bridging the gap between youth and employment through innovative training and resources.

Impact and Engagement

- **Community Engagement:** The conference brought together over 2,700 students from local schools in Freetown, along with 100 teachers and 50 exhibitors, creating a dynamic and interactive learning environment.
- **Governmental Support:** The event aligned with the Sierra Leone government's Free Quality Education program and its new Directorate of Science, Technology, and Innovation, enhancing the conference's impact on educational policies.
- **Academic and Career Focus:** The conference emphasized the importance of STEM education for future careers, supported by the presence of significant corporate exhibitors and educational stakeholders.

Key Takeaways

- **Educational Enhancement:** The conference focused on sensitizing young people to the opportunities within STEM fields, supported by an environment that blended academic insights with real-world applications.
- **Networking and Opportunities:** It facilitated significant interactions between students, educators, and industry leaders, fostering a community focused on STEM education and career readiness.
- **Inspirational Content:** The presence of high-profile speakers and performers significantly motivated the students, providing them with relatable role models and tangible career paths in STEM.

Overall, the STEM Social Conference in Sierra Leone successfully introduced an engaging and educational platform to a new audience, significantly impacting the community's perception and involvement in STEM fields while aligning with national educational goals.

KEY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

STEM social Ghana (2021)

The STEM Social Conference in Ghana, held on December 9, 2021, was a crucial gathering aimed at linking the realms of education and industry within the STEM fields. It focused on inclusiveness, creativity, innovation, and empowerment, offering a platform for students and graduates to engage directly with professionals and explore various STEM careers.

Key Speakers

- **Jessica Okoro**, CEO of BeScience STEM, highlighted the importance of innovative teaching methods in STEM education.
- **Leslie-Ann George**, Founder of EL Empire Professional Services, emphasized career development and educational advancement in STEM.
- **Dr. Lucy Agyepong**, an academic leader from Academic City University College, discussed opportunities and challenges in engineering education.
- **Angela Koranteng and Lady-Omega Hammond**, from STEMbees, focused on engaging young women in STEM and the role of mentorship.
- **Josh Blakk**, Media and Technology Lead, ensured high-quality presentations with his expertise in audio-visual technology.

Impact and Engagement

- **Community Involvement:** The event successfully engaged over 10,000 community members demonstrating a significant impact on the local STEM community.
- **Inspirational Content:** Sessions were aimed at awakening innovative thinking among the youth, with discussions on unconventional career paths and cutting-edge initiatives.
- **Career Opportunities:** The conference facilitated connections between young attendees and potential mentors, providing insights into entering various STEM fields.

Key Takeaways

- **Empowerment through Education:** The conference underscored the importance of education as a tool for empowerment in the STEM fields, particularly for underrepresented groups.
- **Networking and Development:** Emphasis was placed on the power of networking and personal development through mentorship and direct interaction with seasoned professionals.



KEY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Stem Social Virtual (2021)

The STEM Social Virtual Summit was an impactful online event specifically designed for current students and recent graduates looking to enter the STEM industry. It featured a series of insightful presentations from key speakers across various sectors such as technology, aerospace, e-commerce, entertainment, and financial services. Here are some notable aspects of the summit:

Key Speakers

- **CJoanne Thurlow from Siemens Energy** discussed digital business transformation and the integration of IoT and sustainable technologies.
- **Raymond Hounon from Google** emphasized the importance of personal authenticity and networking in technology roles.
- **Dave Orton from Honeywell Aerospace** shared his journey from apprentice to engineering director, highlighting the opportunities in the aerospace industry.
- **Joe Foster from Reebok** recounted his entrepreneurial journey in creating a global sports brand, providing insights into e-commerce.
- **Eileen Lee from HSBC** addressed the significance of fintech innovations and the growing demand for STEM skills in financial services.

Impact and Engagement

- **Inspiration and Aspiration:** 92% of attendees found the talks very inspiring, helping them to visualize their career paths in STEM fields.
- **Knowledge and Awareness:** 87% of the participants felt more informed about the various roles discussed during the summit.
- **Future Engagement:** 81% of the attendees expressed interest in participating in future STEM Social summits, indicating a strong ongoing engagement.
- **Demographic Reach:** The summit reached a diverse audience, with participants spanning from young students (13-17 years) to young adults (18-24 years) and beyond.

Key Takeaways

- **Career Development:** The summit focused on practical advice for entering the STEM industry, including the importance of embracing change, the value of diversity, and the impact of technological proficiency.
- **Networking and Opportunities:** Speakers emphasized the value of making connections and being open to various opportunities, encouraging attendees to pursue paths aligned with their interests and skills.



KEY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

STEM4ALL (2021)

The “STEM 4 All” event at Birmingham City University (BCU) in 2021, held in partnership with BeScience STEM, featured a robust lineup of sessions designed to empower and educate students about careers in STEM. This virtual event took place during the pandemic and included influential speakers, panels, and workshops tailored for BCU students. Here's a detailed overview based on the new information:

Key Speakers and Sessions

- **Keynote Speaker:** Hanifa Shah, Executive Dean at Birmingham City University, provided invaluable insights, setting the tone for the event's focus on career readiness in STEM.
- **Confidence Building Workshop:** Sonya Barlow, founder of Like Minded Females, delivered a talk on maintaining motivation as a student, aimed at empowering attendees to build confidence and pursue their STEM careers actively.

Panels

Alumni Panel: Featured former BCU students who have successfully transitioned into their respective fields:

- **Aksa Saleem**, Junior Network Support Analyst at Edwards Vacuum
- **Savina Velichkova**, User Experience Designer at Public Health England
- **Sam Curley**, Mechanical Design Engineer at The Helping Hand Company
- **Jonathan Thomson**, Graduate Quantity Surveyor at AA Projects

Employer's Panel: Comprised of industry leaders who discussed the qualities they look for in graduates and trends in the STEM job market:

- **Tim Lightfoot**, Managing Director at Taylor Wimpey
- **Shaa Ravi**, Senior Consultant at Future of Tech
- **Rebecca Clark**, Project Manager at Focusrite

Impact and Engagement

- **Industry Insights:** The panels provided students with real-world perspectives on what STEM careers entail and the expectations of employers in these fields.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Students had the chance to engage with professionals and alumni, gaining advice and building connections that could support their career paths.

Key Takeaways

- **Career Preparation:** The event highlighted the importance of readiness for the STEM job market, with a focus on building essential skills through educational and practical experiences.
- **Motivational Learning:** Sonya Barlow's session specifically addressed the challenges students face, offering strategies to stay motivated and proactive during their studies.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

STEM 4 ALL

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

08 MAR 2021
4pm-7pm

(The Alumni Panel)
The Breaking Barriers Editions

AKSA SALEEM
(Junior Network Support Analyst Edwards Vacuum)

SAVINA VELICHKOVA
(User Experience Designer Public Health England)

SAM CURLEY
(Mechanical Design Engineer The Helping Hand Company)

JONATHAN THOMPSON
(Graduate Quantity Surveyor, AA projects)

Powered by: **IMILL INTO STEM** and **INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

Increased fundraising efforts included securing new corporate sponsors and enhancing grant applications, resulting in a 30% revenue increase compared to the previous period.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Significant collaborations have been established with:

- **Educational Institutions:** Birmingham City University and other academic bodies have been pivotal in integrating real-world STEM applications into curricula.
- **Government Bodies:** In Sierra Leone, our partnership with the Directorate of Science, Technology, and Innovation has been instrumental.
- **Corporate Sponsors:** Key sponsors include Africell and Orange, which have supported our events in Sierra Leone, providing both financial backing and technical support.



GOALS FOR THE FUTURE



To expand geographic reach by launching STEM programs in more countries.



To enhance female student participation in our programs by 40%.



To introduce two new major annual STEM events by 2024.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our deepest appreciation to our partners, volunteers, and donors. Special recognition is given to the governmental and corporate sponsors who have supported our vision and made substantial contributions to our success.



For more information, please contact us at:

Email: hello@bescience.org.uk

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Compliance and Transparency

BeScience STEM is committed to transparency and ethical practices. Our financial statements and impact reports are available upon request. We adhere to all regulations and standards for educational and Community interest companies.