

News STEM OPS

January 2023

Happy New Year Kerry! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday season with some downtime to get rejuvenated for 2023. This issue of the STEM-OPS Newsletter contains information about our latest podcast episode, blog posts, and partner news. We also have a new section with Job Opportunities, so make sure to check those out and share as appropriate. And don't forget to peruse our Events and Opportunities.

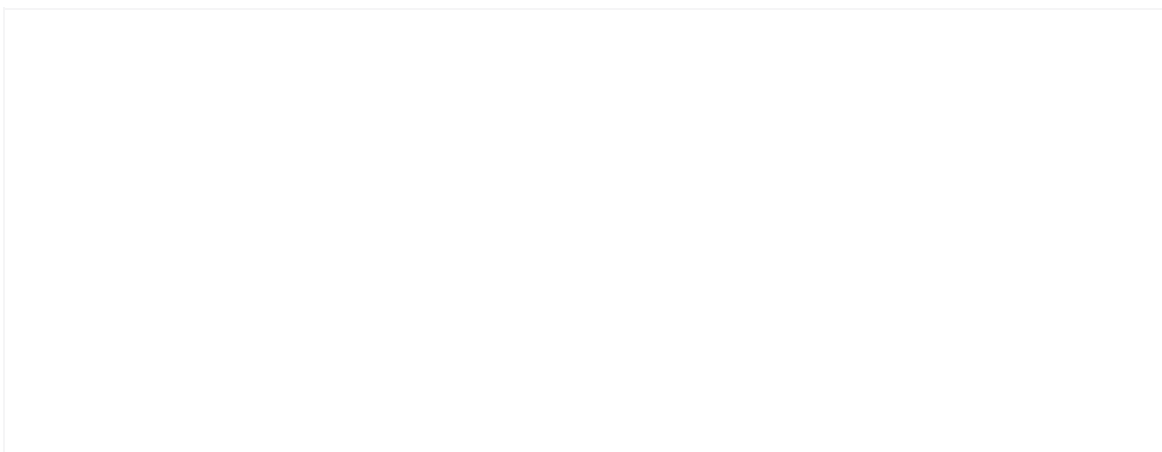
IN THIS ISSUE

- * Quick but Important
- * Special Feature: A Pledge for Human-Centered, Person-First Language
- *The sySTEM Impacted Podcast: Latest Episode
- *STEM-OPS Blog: Recent Posts
- *STEM-OPS Partner Updates
- *STEM-OPS in the News
- *Upcoming Events and Opportunities
- *Resources Recommended by STEM-OPS Core Partners
- *Job Openings

Quick but Important

The **2022 Annual STEM-OPS Convening** is already three months behind us. We hope that you've [joined our Glue Up community](#) so we can continue conversations started in St. Louis. If you haven't already, check out our [YouTube playlist of convening videos](#), and please subscribe to our channel.

We are in the process of hiring a **director of the Executive Committee for the STEM-OPS work**. This person will lead the next stage of our sustainability plan, in addition to expanding our network by reaching out to potential partners and funders. Be on the lookout for our announcement of this director soon!





We will be saying good-bye to our STEM-OPS and EDC colleague **Terrell Blount** in February. Terrell is in demand, and he feels he can do the most good if he focuses on his FICGN network and related speaking engagements. The [Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network](#) is a nonprofit organization that supports justice-involved individuals in obtaining quality higher-education credentials and career opportunities in reentry. Terrell, who recently received the Black Boy Influencer Award from [The Academy 365 Inc.](#), promises to continue being active in the STEM-OPS network in the future. We wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

SPECIAL FEATURE: A Pledge for Human-Centered, Person-First Language

The [Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network](#) created a pledge to use human-centered, person-first language for individuals, organizations, members of the media, corrections and law enforcement agencies, and practically anyone else to take.

As founder [Terrell Blount's LinkedIn post](#) says, "The pledge is not something for you to simply say you signed—it is a public declaration and internal commitment to humanizing directly impacted people in your writing, speech, and treatment of such individuals and spreading the knowledge to others."

STEM-OPS has supported and advocated for the use of human-centered, person-first language since its inception, and we took this pledge. We encourage all who support justice reform to do the same.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE PLEDGE](#)

The sySTEM Impacted Podcast: Latest Episode



The sySTEM Impacted podcast, led by [Chris Etienne](#) (PTI) and [Terrell Blount](#) (EDC), shares stories of system-impacted people's successes and struggles related to accessing STEM education and careers. Chris and Terrell share in these episodes a culture allowing people to recognize the power of their own voices and displaying the humanity in all of us.

In **Episode 4, Perspectives from Justice Impacted Scholars and Professionals**, Chris and Terrell dive into

the stories of two formerly incarcerated Muslim American men—Majid Mohammed and Adham El-Sherbeini—who discuss their assimilation to American culture in school, the influences that prompted them to embark on their journeys from incarceration and education, their experiences studying and working in STEM, and what changes they believe can be made systemically to increase access to education in prison, and to education and career support in reentry. [Listen to Episode 4 along with all of our previous episodes!](#)

STEM-OPS Blog: Recent Posts

It Takes a Village: Memories of a Successful STEM-OPS Convening

Relive the 2022 Annual STEM-OPS convening through this November 22 blog post. This in-person convening, held on October 25–27 in St. Louis, MO, was dedicated to expanding access to STEM education and careers to people impacted by incarceration. The 3-day event brought many and varied stakeholders together; over 100 people and organizations attended. [Read more ...](#)

Youth Advocacy for Justice-Impacted Persons

This is the first in a series of blog posts written by Talia Proshan for the benefit of the STEM-OPS community. Proshan is a high school student at [Ethical Culture Fieldston School](#) and an intern at [From Prisons Cells to PhD & Womxn's Cohort Light to Life](#). Published in December 2022, Proshan discusses ways that youth can support education in prison settings. [Read more ...](#)

STEM-OPS Partner Updates

Prison-to-Professionals (P2P)

Prison-to-Professionals, Howard University, and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) have just launched the **Bridges to Baccalaureate Program (B2B)**. The program aims to change the face of the STEM workforce by supporting underrepresented minority students as they complete their associate's degrees and transfer to four-year institutions to earn their Bachelor of Science degrees in STEM fields. Training grants offset the tuition, fees, and training-related expenses, including health insurance, for the appointed trainees in accordance with the approved NIH support levels. [Learn more ...](#)

P2P is proud to welcome our new **director of research**, [Dr. Jacob Eikenberry](#) (below, left) and **deputy director of research and evaluation**, [Tenaj Moody](#) (below, right).



The Womxn's Cohort: Connection to Community Through Sisterhood is an extension of P2P's Womxn's Cohort in partnership with Light To Life. This cohort provides interactive activities, circles and challenges that are survivor-centered with healing justice approaches in the movement to support justice-impacted womxn and survivors of gender-based violence. [Join the Online Tribe](#) to ask questions, get feedback, and take on new challenges. See dates for the Womxn's Cohort 2023 Virtual Series under Events.

Princeton Teaching Initiative (PTI)

The Princeton Teaching Initiative would like to announce their computational biology summer internship program, available to formerly incarcerated students from around the U.S. [Read more about the internship opportunity.](#)

Education Development Center (EDC)

EDC recently published an article featuring STEM-OPS, titled "The Urgency of STEM Education in Prison." [Check it out.](#)

STEM-OPS in the News

Mechanical Engineering Student Speaks at STEM-OPS Conference:

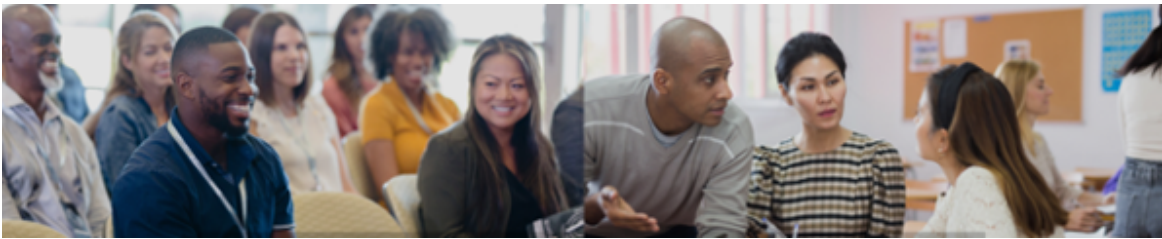
Since transferring to the UW from Everett Community College in 2020, Raymond Haug (shown at right) has helped build a race car through the Formula Motorsports club and completed two engineering internships at SpaceX. As he gets ready to graduate with a bachelor's degree, he's adding more experiences to the list – specifically getting involved in STEM

outreach and engagement for people impacted by incarceration. [Read more](#)

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Events and Opportunities



- **January 24:** STEM for All Multiplex webinar "[Embracing Neurodiversity in STEM](#)"
- **February 7:** [Womxn's Cohort Virtual Series](#) (*This is the next date, but there are many dates and topics, so click the link to learn more*)
- **February 22:** [16th Health Disparities Conference](#)
- **March 1:** [Call for Writing and Art Work, MEND Journal](#)
- **March 2:** [Illinois Reentry Conference](#)
- **April 24–25:** [Marquette University's 2023 Prison Education Symposium](#)
- **June 14–15:** [Horizons Annual Summit](#)

Resources Recommended by STEM-OPS Core Partners

BOOK: [Grit: How to Get a Job and Build a Career with a Criminal Record](#) by Harley T. Blakeman

ARTICLES:

- [Formerly Incarcerated Man Now Leading Prison Reform](#) | Today Online
- [UConn Health to Hire Formerly Incarcerated People](#) | Connecticut Public Radio
- [RITEI Leverages Apprenticeship Buzz to Create Accessibility for In-Demand Tech Roles](#) | Jobs for the Future (JFF)

VIDEO: [The Barriers to Reentering Society after Prison](#) | PBS News Hour

PODCASTS: Jessica Hicklin of [Unlocked Labs](#) was interviewed recently on two podcasts:

- [Gin & Justice Podcast](#)
- [Resilient Reentrants](#)

Job Posts

Conservation Project Coordinator, University of Utah

The STEM Community Alliance Program aims to provide pathways that broaden understanding and exchange between Youth-In-Custody and STEM communities. We partner with experts in science, the arts, and the humanities to increase awareness of, interest in, and the capacity to respond to STEM topics through various media. We want to expand student access to long-term conservation projects and increase our conservation efforts. This position will spearhead those efforts with the assistance of the STEMCAP associate director. Individuals impacted by criminal legal systems are strongly encouraged to apply. [Learn more ...](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Substance Use Recovery Support Services at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine

The University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine has a new postdoctoral research fellowship focused on substance use recovery support services for emerging adults. The fellow will work directly with Dr. Kristyn Zajac, with opportunities for external mentorship from researchers at the Oregon Social Learning Center and the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine. [Learn more ...](#)

Become part of the solution! Join the ever-growing [STEM-OPS community](#) on Glue Up.

STEM-OPS Website



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