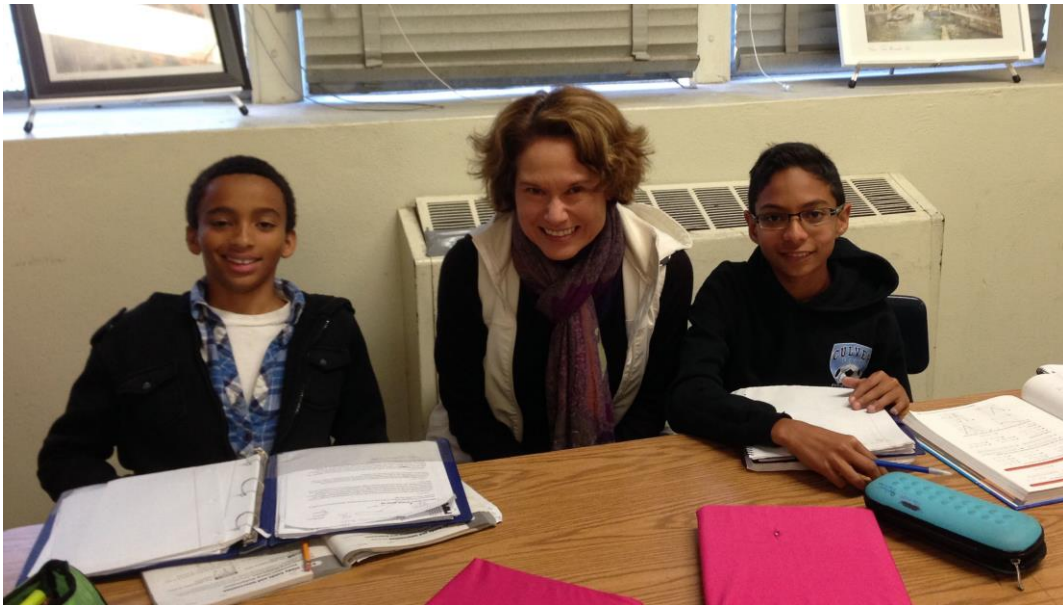


## LearnBop Community Blog

### EnCorps STEM Teachers Program Welcomes 2015 Teacher Cohort



Posted by Ann McMullan  
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With the start of the 2015-16 school year EnCorps STEM Teachers Program welcomes eighty-nine future teachers to the 2015 EnCorps Educator Cohort.

#### What is EnCorps?

The EnCorps STEM Teachers Program recruits, transitions and supports experienced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professionals and military veterans transitioning into education in order to ensure an excellent STEM education for under-resourced students. The EnCorps STEM Teachers Program helps skilled STEM

experts interested in exploring a career transition to teaching to become more personally involved in public education, providing an entry point for STEM educators to make the transition into teaching, and enabling them to share their passion for math and science with younger generations. By placing STEM professionals in the most needy schools and classrooms, EnCorps is working to close the achievement and opportunity gaps, cultivating a new generation of STEM professionals and leaders.

## Getting Started

For the newly recruited STEM professionals, starting with EnCorps is the beginning of a journey designed to successfully guide and support them through the California teacher credentialing process. Once these transitioning STEM professionals acquire their teaching credentials, the EnCorps STEM staff will assist in placing these highly qualified educators in schools that are located in low income, high need communities.

The current class of eighty-nine STEM professionals exceeds the recruitment goal set by EnCorps STEM Teachers Program for 2015-16. Katherine Wilcox, Executive Director of the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program explains: “We have been working tirelessly to create a fully functioning organization that will not only address the shortage of STEM teachers, but an organization that will support our educators in the best ways possible in their transition to teaching. We are committed to our mission of delivering the best and brightest from STEM fields into classrooms in communities where they are needed most.”

## Background

Founded in 2007 by Sherry Lansing, former CEO of Paramount Pictures & former President of Production at 20th Century Fox - and also a former high school teacher - the mission of the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program is to recruit, select, and develop the best and brightest STEM professionals and military veterans, as an innovative, long-term solution to the shortage of high quality, impactful educators for under-resourced students in high need communities. The average recruit has around seventeen years' experience in STEM related work. Most of the recruits are at a mid-point or further in their careers and all share the organization's drive to create a better future by educating today's students.

## EnCorps Teachers

Julian Lewis, former executive with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, is typical of the kind of professional who elects to become an EnCorps STEM recruit. Lewis credits his 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher with showing a personal concern for his future by “exposing a boy from the hood to the world of aviation.” When Julian Lewis retired from the aerospace industry, after thirty-four distinguished years, it was his daughter who connected him with the STEM Academy of Hollywood and the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program. Today Mr. Lewis attributes the EnCorps STEM Teachers program with providing him with the training, network and professional learning opportunities to embark on his new career and help students just as he was guided and supported by his teacher in his early adolescent years.

Bob Capriles, Mathematics and Engineering teacher at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale CA is another professional educator who got his start and early support from the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program. Mr. Capriles had an earlier career as an engineer and project manager with NetSuite and Yahoo. However, it was his role as a father, helping his son with his mathematics, which prompted him to consider teaching as his calling. Bob Capriles joined the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program in 2010. He credits the program as his partner in his transition to becoming a teacher through the guidance and professional development opportunities he was able to participate in as a STEM professional in the program. Bob’s excellence as an educator was celebrated when he was recognized by Texas Instruments as one of 6 Santa Clara County recipients of the Texas Instruments 2014 STEM Teaching Award.

For more information on the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, contact Executive Director Ms. Katherine Wilcox, at [katherine@encorps.org](mailto:katherine@encorps.org).