

## STEM IS THE FUTURE: A DAILY NEWS-URBAN LEAGUE PARENT GUIDE

Parents can use a free new guide developed by the Daily News and the New York Urban League to boost their children's interest in science, technology, engineering and math – better known as STEM.

“A Parent's Guide to STEM” is designed to shatter myths about those fields and encourage students – especially young women and minority-group members – to consider a STEM career path.

“We can't really forget that the parents play such a significant role (in education),” said Daily News Chief Executive Officer William D. Holiber, who is also chairman of the New York Urban League. “For STEM, it's really critical.”

Holiber was one of several dignitaries who discussed the issue at a panel gathered Tuesday at the CUNY Graduate Center and monitored by *Daily News* education reporter Ben Chapman.

The discussion – titled “Ensuring a Diverse Flow in the STEM Pipeline” – was part of the guide's rollout.

“If we want to grow, we are going to have to start doing things differently,” said William Floyd, head of external affairs at Google. “We have to go further and further upstream to inspire students to go into our field.”

*The News* reported last week that more than 100,000 city schoolkids will soon have access to Google's CS First, a program that teaches youngsters how to code.

Sometimes, exposing kids to STEM is as simple as a visit to the workplace or a meeting with female engineers.

“Young people don't have many role models,” said Arva Rice, president and CEO of the New York Urban League. “They need to see themselves in these positions.”

The panel included city Youth and Community Development Commissioner Bill Chong, Debbie Marcus of the city Education Department and Tiana McFarlane of the Urban League, as well as Rice and Floyd.



*NYC Department of Youth and Community Development Commissioner Bill Chong*

Marcus told the audience the City is ready to launch a new advanced-placement class in computers for high schoolers who are not computer science majors.

Getting more students interested in STEM is the gateway to good jobs and will help the city's economy, according to Michael Simas of the Partnership for New York City.

Simas said there are 19,000 unfilled STEM jobs in the city and by 2020 there will be nearly 40,000 new positions in those fields.

“Due to a lack of homegrown STEM talent, businesses are turning overseas to fill these openings,” he said. “Nearly half of the city's STEM workforce is foreign-born.”

The free booklet was produced by the Urban League in partnership with *The News*, *Time Warner Cable*, *U.S. News & World Report*, CUNY and City agencies.

Holiber said he hopes the entire 100,000 pressrun is distributed quickly so another batch can be printed.