



**University STEM Academy
P.O. Box 52586
Riverside, CA 92517-3586
(951) 827-5293**

Re: University STEM Academy (USA) Intake Notification

Dear Parents:

We invite you and your scholar (son and/or daughter) to join the University STEM Academy (USA). USA is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program designed to stimulate more interest, and to enhance performance, in technical subjects by students in the *Black community*. The program provides enrichment/mentoring classes in both Math and the Sciences for students in **Grades 6 through 9**. Hands-on Science Projects, and classes in Computer Applications and Scholastic Aptitude Test Preparation, are included for students at appropriate levels.

The theme last year was *Quality Health for All*. The scholars were exposed to the *gold standard of knowledge* (i.e., best practices to maintain health and cure disease), learned about the contributions of African/African Americans in improving health, and presented their knowledge at *UCR's Black Health Expo*. At the Black Health Expo, our scholars demonstrated their biomedical skills and their Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) skills. We were honored to have *Dean Deas of the UCR Medical School* give a welcome address directed specifically to our scholars. She was so impressed with our scholars that she has extended a special invitation for us to visit the Medical School as her guests, an event which is being planned for this coming year.

This upcoming year, the plan is to continue the theme of *Quality Health for All*. In Phase II of this training, each scholar will identify a particular disease or condition, trace the causes, identify prevention strategies, and examine how it can be cured or managed. Emphasis will be placed on *Naturopathic Medicine* and cures. The research will then be presented individually, and/or in groups, through posters, PowerPoint presentations, videos, rap songs, or other multimedia venues. We are proud to say that, after being one of the highlights of the *UCR Black Health Expo* last year, we have been invited back to present again this year. In addition, we will also be submitting abstracts for approval to be allowed present at other health expos, conferences, and community venues. One such conference is the *Association of Black Psychologists Annual Convention*, which will be celebrating its *50th Anniversary* this year in Oakland, CA.

On Saturday, September 30, 2017 the University STEM Academy (USA) will be conducting an **intake session** to select the participants for the 2017-18 academic year. This intake session will occur from **9:00am to noon** at the University of California, Riverside campus (900 University Ave, Riverside, CA 92521), in room 3210 of the Psychology Building, which is located next to Lot #6. Parking is free, and signs will be posted. On that date, parents and

potential participants will have an opportunity to meet with the program facilitators, learn about the program curriculum, and register for the opportunity to participate. Twenty (20) males and twenty (20) females will be selected from the applicants to be a part of this exciting program. Priority is given to returning scholars. The remaining slots will be filled on a first come basis. Returning and new scholars are asked to please go to the website: <http://universitystemacademy.com> to sign up at **eventbrite**.

Whether selected for the program or not, all potential participants will be entered into a drawing to win one of four prizes:

1. A Television, HDTV
2. An 8" Tablet, 8 GB
3. An 8" Tablet, 8 GB
4. Other (TBS)

The program consists of **10 Saturday sessions**, scheduled as follows: **October 7 & 21, 2017; November 4 & 18, 2017; December 3, 2017; January 6 & 20, 2018; February 3 & 17, 2018; and March 3, 2018**. A ceremony celebrating the end of the program will be scheduled for **March 2018 (TBD)**. This year, in the morning between **8:30am and 10:45am**, scholars will attend 2 one-hour classes in **Mathematics** and **Science (Bio-Engineering)**, and from **11:00am to 12:20pm** scholars will attend the **Mini-Medical School**. **Lunch** will be served from **12:30pm to 1:00pm**. From **1:00pm to 3:00pm** males and females (in separate groups) will be taught leadership skills. A field trip may be scheduled for one or more of the Saturdays.

Although the program is a non-profit venture, there is a **nominal fee of \$125 for each student**. This fee covers all lunches, educational materials, field trips, and awards, and is **due on September 30**. In addition, **each family is responsible for purchasing, or selling, two (2) tickets to the USA Gospel Brunch**, which will be held on **October 29, 2017**. A few scholarships are available for low-income students who cannot afford the tuition.

For more detailed information, and to enroll online, visit the USA Program link on the website: <http://universitystemacademy.com>. Interns with computers will be available at the intake session to assist parents in registering their students. Checks for fees should be made payable to: "University STEM Academy".

We are looking forward to seeing our returning scholars and to meeting new scholars.

Best Regards,

Carolyn B. Murray

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Executive Director, University STEM Academy