

CCS Global Collabinar

Building Career Pathways and Networks for Underrepresented STEM Students



About the presentation: In 2017 St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands experienced two category 5 hurricanes. In an effort to rebuild our infrastructure, our economy, society, and environment we have created a new STEM pathways and network program at our local private preschool through high school. As the only preschool through high school on our island we opened our doors tuition-free to all K-8 public school students after the hurricanes to get students back in school quickly and to help our society recover. We have built a series of citizen science projects with local and national partners and have learned numerous lessons on ways to engage underrepresented students in STEM careers. After a presentation sharing experiences, we will discuss how this type of work can be expanded in other communities around the nation.

Topics to be discussed:

1. Our STEM pathways program is a pilot program with multiple tiers. Where else could this work? How could it be modified to help engage underrepresented STEM students in other contexts?
2. What are the cultural elements of action that need to be considered when participating in citizen science or building STEM pathways/networks?
3. Where can we find good mentor/role models for students?
4. What organizations or universities need interns, work, or data collection completed? How might you engage them?

The **CCS Collabinar** invites our partners from across the globe to bring us their most exciting challenges and opportunities in community and citizen science. Each event supports mutual learning, and advances projects and partnerships.

Presenter:



Melissa B. Wilson—

In May 2019, I graduated from Harvard University's sustainability program with a Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies. I use landscape planning, spatial ecology, wilderness conservation, outdoor recreation, and experiential STEM education to build a more sustainable world. I have 19 years of teaching experience in both higher education and preschool-twelfth grade education. In 2017, I moved to St. John, USVI to help rebuild a preschool-12th grade school, Giffit Hill School. My emphasis in the Caribbean is building the human-nature connection through green STEM career pathways for underrepresented students.

Tuesday, June 11, 1 PM

- **1:00-2:00 PM: presentation and discussion**
- **2:00-3:00 PM: optional sharing and workshopping**

1460 Drew Ave

Davis, CA 95616

- **To participate online or in-person, please RSVP:**
<http://bit.ly/Collabinar06>