

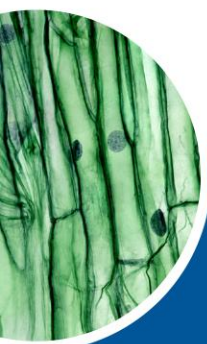


S-STEM Scholars Community Workshop

My STEM Story



June 16, 2026



NSF AWARD #2224093: AAAS-NSF
S-STEM Resource & Evaluation Center

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Agenda

I. Housekeeping

II. S-STEM REC & Scholars Community

III. Panel Discussion

VI. Q&A

Housekeeping



Please keep your microphone on mute when not speaking. Use the Q&A feature and chat to share questions and comments.



You are welcome to introduce yourself in the chat.



Live closed captioning is available.



Today's slides and recording will be posted on the event page of the S-STEM REC website.



Contact Lily Davey in the chat or at ldavey@aaas.org for technology questions or issues.



Please take our short live survey to provide feedback on this virtual event!

Disclaimers

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DUE-2224093.

Any opinions, findings, interpretations, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of its authors and do not represent the views of the AAAS Board of Directors, the Council of AAAS, AAAS' membership or the National Science Foundation.

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AAAS S-STEM Resource & Evaluation Center (REC)

The S-STEM REC seeks to cultivate a network of S-STEM stakeholders and promote the exchange of ideas, resources, opportunities, and knowledge related to the effective strategies and practices to increase the number of talented low-income students obtaining degrees in STEM and entering the STEM workforce.

AAAS S-STEM REC works to:



Increase the effectiveness of the S-STEM Portfolio



Build the capacity of S-STEM Network Programs



Build the capacity of S-STEM Scholars



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Join the S-STEM Scholars Community Today!

As a member of the S-STEM Scholars Community, students and alumni will be able to:

- Be part of an inclusive, safe, and welcoming community space
- Network and build community across S-STEM programs
- Engage in meaningful discussions and professional development
- Have access to employment opportunities and S-STEM resources



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12830947/>

Share Your Story with the S-STEM Community

Submit an S-STEM Scholar Spotlight

- Share your journey and vision for the future
- Builds community and expand your network
- Highlight your S-STEM experiences



<https://sstemrec.aaas.org/resource/s-stem-scholar-spotlight-submission-form/>

Meet Our Panelists





Caroline Murphy

she/her/hers

Wildlife Policy and Communications Professional

A Career at the Intersection of Science and Policy

Caroline E. Murphy, AWB®

AAAS S-Stem Scholars
Community Workshop

June 16, 2026



Academic Background

- B.S. in Wildlife Ecology, Minor in Public Policy
 - Wildlife technician positions throughout college
 - Development of soft skills through political engagement
-



Professional Experience

- Government Affairs at The Wildlife Society
 - Public and Intra-governmental Affairs at the U.S. Geological Survey
 - Detail assignment at the Office of Management and Budget
-



Takeaways

- Scientific background provides a strong foundation for broader career flexibility
- Seek out opportunities to build soft skills, talk to strangers!
- Understand the policy underpinnings of your scientific discipline





Ariya Uyeno

she/her/hers

**Incoming Neuroscience PhD Student
UC Berkeley**

S-STEM Scholars Community Workshop

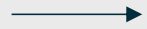


Ariya Uyeno - incoming PhD student at UC Berkeley

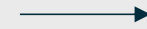
From undergrad, to a research assistant position, and beyond.



**BS/MS in Ecology and Biology,
respectively, at UC San Diego**



**Research Technician position for the
Patapoutian Lab at Scripps**



**Incoming Neuroscience PhD student at
UC Berkeley**



I am the first individual in my family to attain a master's degree, the second to obtain a bachelor's, and the first to attend a PhD program.



INACCESSIBILITY TO STEM ON THE BASIS OF CLASS STARTS EARLY, AND CONTINUES THROUGHOUT ONE'S CAREER

- Access to science classes in high school
- Guidance applying to colleges
- **Paying for college**
- Gaining unpaid lab volunteer experience
- Contacting potential mentors
- **Understanding career paths in STEM**
- Familial support and understanding
- Mentors and colleagues in different class brackets
- Financial flexibility



FULBRIGHT U.S. Student Program

This program allows individuals with a bachelor's degree at the start of the grant period to conduct research abroad.

Applications for this current cycle are due on **Tuesday October 6, 2026!!**

If you feel like you struggle with feeling like you belong in STEM, or even more so, struggle getting into STEM opportunities,

You are not alone!

My **OUTSTANDING** students over the years...



Being low-income continues to impact my career pathway...



UC Berkeley's public-serving programs, including free and low-income targeted science conferences that I benefited from as a kid, were a HUGE factor in my PhD program selection.



Your background will be your greatest asset as you enter the field of STEM.

Pursue your passions without hesitation.

Thank you for your time!



Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything:

ariyauyeno@berkeley.edu



Kaitlyn Webster

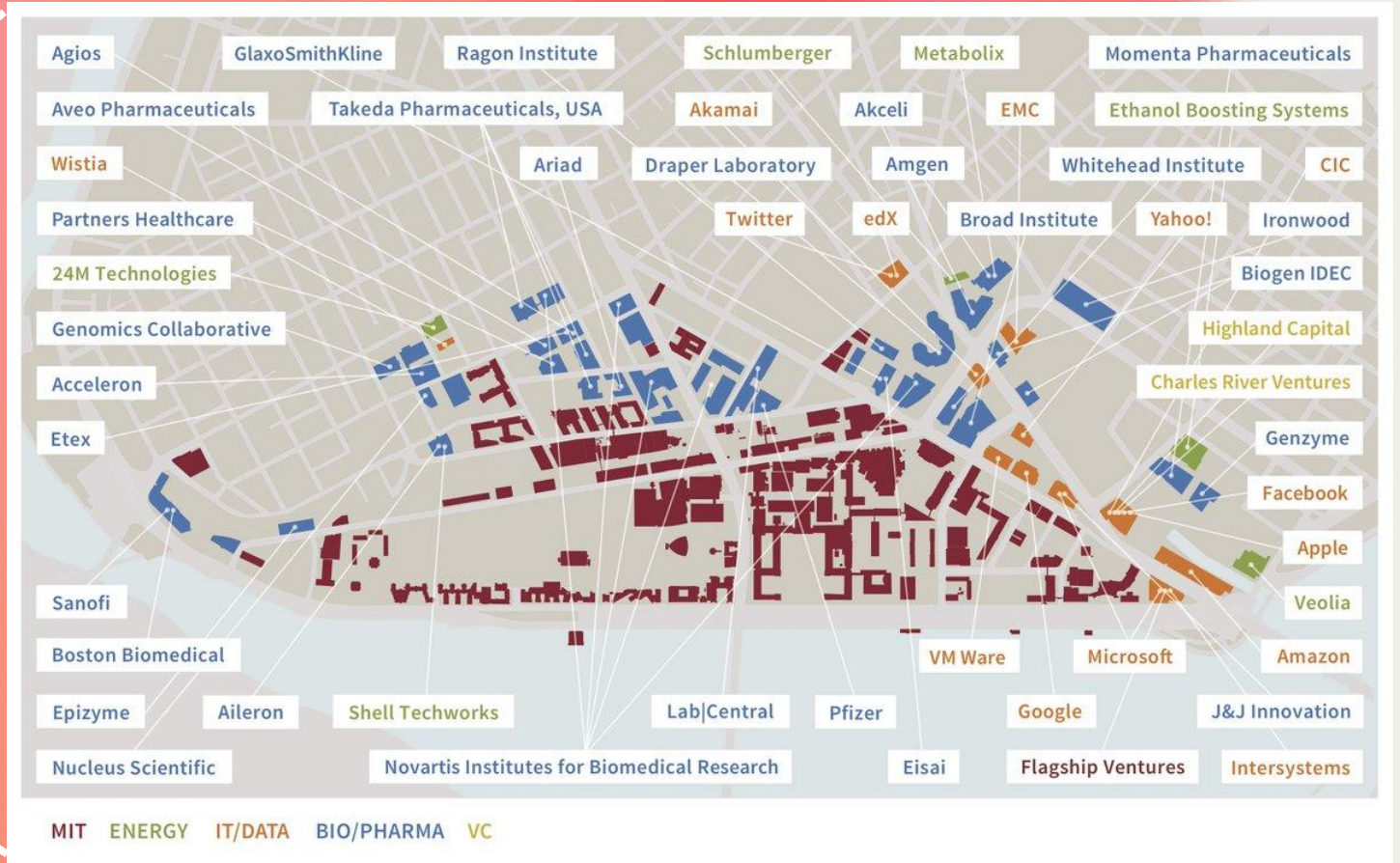
she/her

**Postdoctoral Fellow
Harvard Medical School**



**I grew up in East Cambridge, MA
an at-risk youth in a low-income,
single-parent household
in a diverse, working-class
neighborhood**

Cambridge is also home to Harvard, MIT, and biotech industry



My librarian and science teacher connected me to a woman in STEM mentor who changed my life



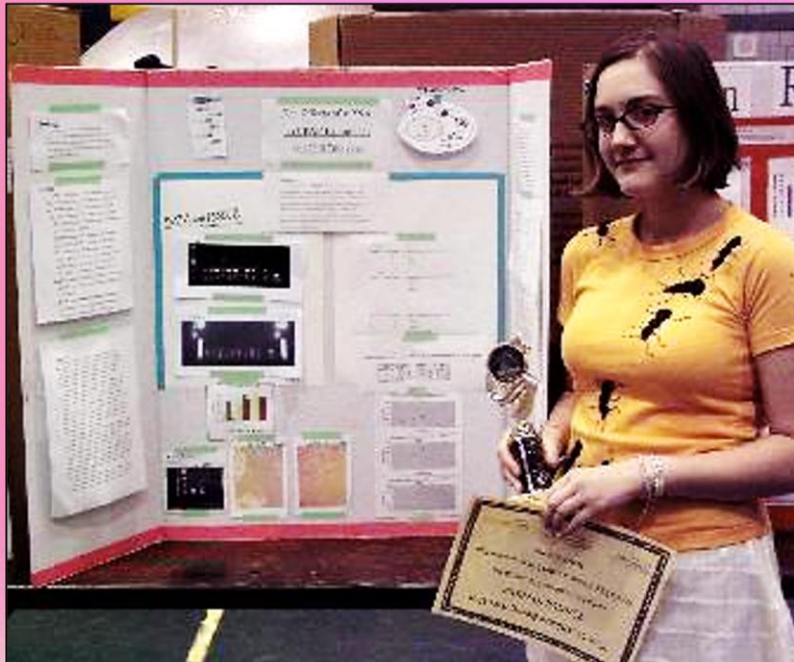
Tracy Callahan
Biogen's first Community Lab teacher



Former Biogen CEO Jim Mullen welcoming the first class to Biogen's Community Lab in 2002.

That mentor built an onramp for me from kid who loved to science to academia and research science

Winning the high school science fair



Winning a AAAS / L'Oréal For Women in Science fellowship

Now I get to be that mentor to girls in my community through **STEM outreach with Science Club for Girls**

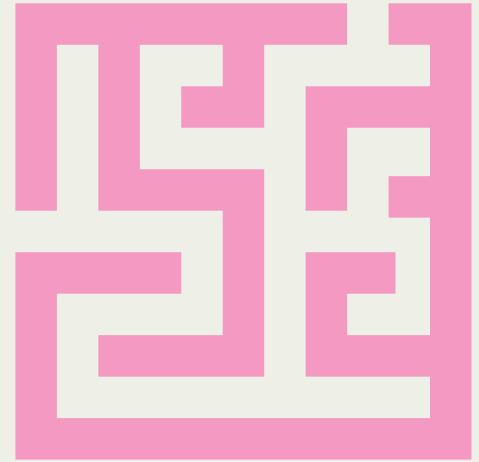
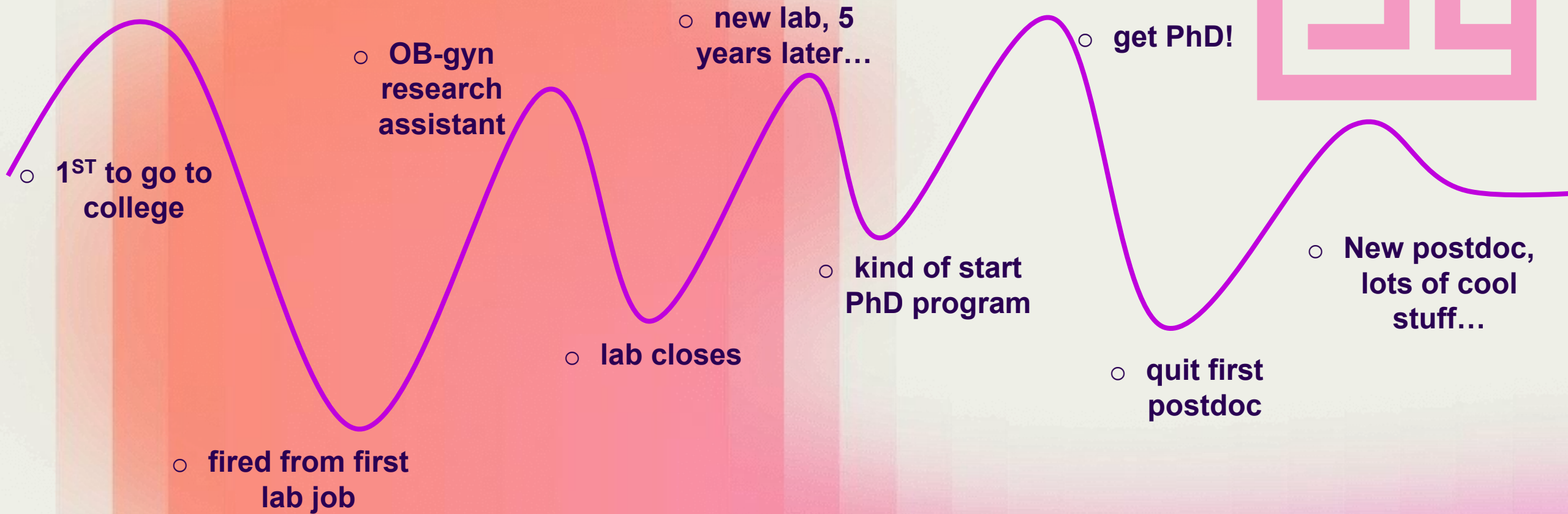


And participate in shaping the future of STEM education, workforce, and policy at our State House



All of us
grew up in
East
Cambridge!

This was not a linear path...



Questions & Answers



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Provide Your Feedback on Today's Event!

Survey Link:

<https://airtable.com/appDcSXf9TvNTEuPt/pagNL845HA9belibc/form>





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Email us: ssteminitiative@aaas.org