



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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## TAMIRA

### GEMS ALUMNI

I am a Sophomore in High School studying a public services endorsement in preparation to major in exercise science.

### WORDS OF ADVICE

My advice would be not to overthink your decision and just apply. GEMS allowed me to be motivated by fellow STEM professionals. If you are considering the STEM field, I encourage you to give it a try and enjoy the experience.

Participating helped me decide what I wanted to do for my future career.

### BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The speakers at GEMS were so passionate in their stories. Their faces would light up as they talked about new technologies or their traveling experiences. Seeing this passion in them motivated me to pursue my own passions in the STEM field. The student teachers were also fantastic with their ability to laugh and have fun with us. We had an understanding between the student teachers and the volunteers that was based on respect while also enjoying our time engaging in STEM activities together.

### AS A RESULT OF THE PROGRAM

At my high school, you can choose an endorsement (or specialty) to focus on in high school to prepare you for a potential college program. I wasn't sure about what endorsement to select prior to participating in GEMS. At GEMS, we learned so much about the public service field and the role STEM plays in it. As a result, I choose to enroll in the public service endorsement as I aim to be an exercise science major in college.

### HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

Participating helped me decide what I wanted to do for my future career. While fellow GEMS participants chose STEM careers such as engineering, I chose a bit different of a path. I decided that I want to major in exercise science in college. My engagement in GEMS verified my desire to be involved in the STEM field. Even though exercise science may not be as rigorous as being an engineer, it is still heavily involved in the STEM field and is something I am passionate about. I want to help people and look forward to my future participation in the public service field.