



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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## LATASHA

### GAINS IN THE EDUCATION OF MATH AND SCIENCE ALUMNI

6th grade math teacher at Rucker Boulevard Elementary School in Enterprise, Ala.

### WORDS OF ADVICE

GEMS is a fun and engaging learning experience for students AND teachers. Collaborating with STEM professionals offers a new perspective on hands-on learning in the STEM field and how to implement STEM in your classroom effectively.

## BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The GEMS program takes age-appropriate core STEM concepts and adds a hands-on, imaginative spin to each lesson experiment. Being a Resource Teacher in the GEMS program has helped me to understand the importance of integrating all four subjects in my classroom. The best part of the GEMS program at Fort Rucker was the opportunity to work with so many new people including our participants, college students and STEM professionals. Furthermore, military and civilian STEM professionals are invited to share their careers with the students, which adds a real-world link to the program. For example, this summer, in our Forensics module, Fort Rucker Military Police presented how they use K-9s in a criminal investigation.

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

My participation in AEOP has inspired me to continue my education through STEM professional development. Being a part of this program allows me to bring STEM experiences to the students in my classroom, and share my experiences with my colleagues to enhance in-school STEM education. It has inspired me to participate in other AEOP programs as well. For instance, I would like to participate in the RESET program, which would give me the opportunity to conduct research in an Army laboratory to enhance student learning.

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