



STEM Education Advocacy Group

This summary report details our development as a science advocacy think tank over the last year. The current mission, progress, and future directions are summarized accordingly.

Progress Report

2016

STEM Education Advocacy Group
Melrose, MA 02176

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“You can think of us as an all volunteer start up think tank.”

What’s Inside



Strategic Highlights

Our mission statement is highlighted. (Page 2)

Operational Highlights

Who we are and what we do are highlighted. (Page 3-5)

Fundraising Highlights

Our recent efforts to raise funds for other STEM organizations in addition to our own projects as well. (Page 5)

Looking Ahead

How we see the next year shaping up! (Page 6)

Our efforts focus on analysis, consulting, and advocacy."

Our Mission

The STEM Education Advocacy Group's mission is to **analyze, advise, and advocate** for science education initiatives and organizations around the world. As a science advocacy think tank, our group seeks to identify, analyze, share and promote programs, proposals, organizations, and original ideas which advance science education around the world. We believe that education with a strong foundation in science is essential for global economic growth, social advancement. and ultimately, global peace.

An additional and also an important aspect of what we do is outreach. We do this by going into the community and talk to young people about the wonders of science. Our simple goal is to inspire the next generation by sharing our passion for science. In the end, our mission is to be a powerful analytical voice for science initiatives and trainees around the world especially in developing countries.



Our work coalesces around research, consulting, and outreach. We do that through analysis, advising, and advocacy respectively.



“We do this because it is fun and it is for a good cause!”

Who We Are and What We Do

We are all volunteer scholars at STEM Advocacy. We are driven by our passion for science education. Currently, our activities can be divided into three main areas: (1) **Research** where we **analyze** datasets, policies, new ideas, etc., surrounding STEM education around the world. (2) **Consulting** where we **advise** both new and established STEM education organizations to help them enhance the impact of their initiatives. (3) **Outreach** where we **advocate** and inspire young trainees around the world through talks, writing, and also new projects that examine important topics in science. Altogether, our main output are publications that encompass original reports, articles, and letters that are published in high impact journals, and also on our own website. We also heavily utilize social media platforms to connect and share our ideas.



Research

Analysis



Consulting

Advising



Outreach

Advocacy

The Core Team

Our core team members are highlighted below. In **blue** is where they currently work. Their roles in the think tank are highlighted in **green**.

Moytrayee Guha (MPH) - **MGH** - **Co Founder**

Joseph B Keller (PhD) - **Isaacson Miller** - **Advisor and Analyst**

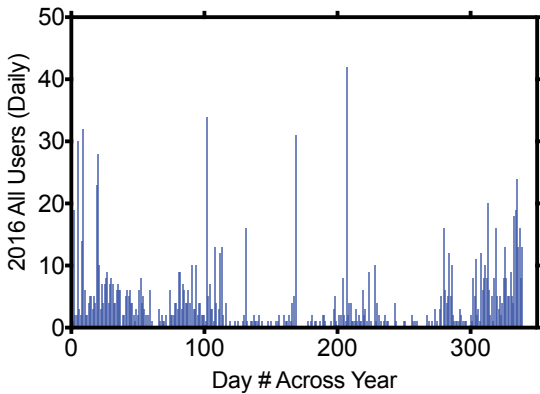
Fanuel Muindi (PhD) - **Harvard University** - **Co Founder and Director**

Jean Njoroge (PhD) - **Texas A&M** - **New Advisor and Analyst**

Gandhy Pierre-Louis (PhD) - **Emory University** - **Advisor and Analyst**

Jessica Tsai, (MD, PhD) - **Boston Childrens Hospital** - **Advisor, Editor, and Analyst**

Online



The numbers of daily users across the year (Jan 1 - Dec 4 2016). Total users (new and returning) was 1262.

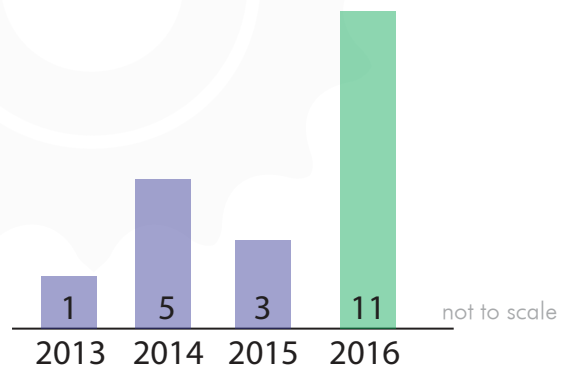
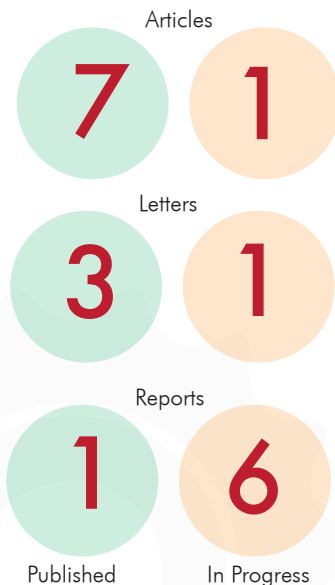
We are on Twitter (@STEMadvocacy) and have a Facebook group (STEM Education Advocacy Group). The Twitter account now has 53 followers (up from 20 followers this time last year). Our LinkedIn page also has 32 followers. We use these platforms to promote our publications. Our website has also seen a significant changes since its launch in January 2015. Our website (www.stemadvocacy.org) is now more streamlined with all the information on the landing page which can be easily navigated. All of our publications are now in one location which is searchable by categories and also tags. This important feature is useful to ensure visitors can get to the information they are looking for quickly. The entire website is also searchable which adds another layer of data search visitors whose numbers have been steadily increasing.

Publications & Projects

Explore the full list on our website (www.stemadvocacy.org)

We have been very active this year with our publications. We have added a total of **11 publications (7 articles, 3 letters and 1 report)** that were published on our website, Wikipedia and also Science. A current project that we recently launched is called **Stories in Science**. What is the project? We are surrounded by stories in science. Stories of success, failure, fear, discovery, serendipity, collaboration, separation, inspiration, mentorship, and so much more! It is these stories that fill the classrooms. It is these stories that are shared at home, during lunch, in laboratories, offices, and even in Nobel Prize winning speeches. We need to hear these stories. It is these stories that grab our attention. It is these stories that inspire us to keep going against all odds. It is these stories that cause us to pause and reflect. Stories in science is an attempt to bring all these stories into one place so that we can share them with everyone around the world.

Jan 2016- Dec 2016



Past Report Follow Up: STEM Organizations Across Africa

We have now completed the first phase of the project to catalogue STEM initiatives across in Africa. This is a long term project that was started almost two years ago. The STEM organizations that were found were placed online (Wikipedia) so that it could be updated in the years to come by us and others online. We think this cataloguing is a step in the right direction towards the creation of a platform where STEM organizations could collaborate and also share strategies. The hope is that once it is populated enough, we will create a searchable database which would make it easier to find information on specific STEM projects across Africa.



Advisory Board

In 2015, we had hoped to create an advisory board to help in directing our growth. We are happy to announce that our board now has 3 members who joined in 2016. They are as follows: Ms. Susi Varvayanis from Cornell University, Dr. Nathan Vanderford from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and Dr. Christine Ortiz from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They continue to play an instrumental role in helping us continue to grow.



Fundraising

In September 2016, STEM Advocacy raised \$1284 through Crowdrise for a non profit called AGE Africa (Advancing Girls' Education in Africa) that provides young women with educational opportunities in Malawi. As stated on their website, "Age Africa's mission is to provide life-changing opportunities to young women in Malawi through targeted initiatives in education, mentoring, and leadership development". Their vision is that "all girls in Africa will have equal access to secondary education, and that young scholars will be empowered to finish school." We raised the funds by running the 2016 Half Marathon in Manchester-by-the-sea in Massachusetts. We are also happy to announce that our efforts to raise funds to support our core projects are going well. Thanks to our wonderful donors (Kevin Schwartz, Joseph Keller, and Moytrayee Guha), we are able to begin supporting a few of our projects. It is our hope to continue to grow our internal funds in the upcoming year to expand support for our projects.



"We are excited to welcome new members that will help the group provide analysis and advocate for STEM organizations and young people around the world!"

Future Directions

We have started and will continue to [advise and consult](#) on a few STEM organizations both here in the US and abroad. The focus is on providing feedback and suggestions for STEM organizations/initiatives by conducting research/analysis. The findings are put together in a report that is shared with the organization. It is our hope to continue to grow our core group of scholars that will actively conduct analysis on STEM ideas, programs and organizations around the world. An additional avenue for growth is in outreach. We realize that in-order for us to have a bigger impact through outreach, we are going to need to enable others to do their own outreach. So there are plans to perhaps create a [STEM Advocacy Fellowship](#) to provide some modest financial support to enable more people to do outreach. Stay tuned!

