

# I AM STEM

## Lisa Mack

*Lisa Mack is a regional coordinator for the MyCom youth development initiative of Greater Cleveland. Her love of math, science and problem-solving led her to pursue a degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University. Lisa believes that STEM is a doorway to exploration and a vehicle for problem-solving and creativity in any field.*

### Did you have a mentor?

I had a youth director actually in my church who was an engineer. It was unusual to have a black engineer even when I started school. There were very few black engineering students, especially female, but he was definitely a role model, and once he saw that I had an interest in math and science, he helped direct me into different programs that would help me experience what that field would look like.

### What advice do you have for kids exploring the world and discovering what they're interested in?

Pursue those things that interest you. Math and science were not necessarily my best subjects, but they were ones that I enjoyed. Actually, when it came time to choose a major in college, I tried to decide between engineering and music. Engineering won out just because of the practicality of it.

Go with what you're passionate about, what really interests you, and it should carry you a long way.

### What does STEM mean to you?

STEM to me is a doorway, a doorway that can be opened to explore the inner workings of a lot of things, a way to build, a way to learn using the science and the technology and engineering and math as a vehicle to get to whatever that destination is. I think it's an opportunity. And it's just a real great foundational way to explore and to create.

**"PURSUE THOSE THINGS THAT INTEREST YOU."**



The NeoSTEM Ecosystem is a collaboration of organizations throughout Northeast Ohio who partner to improve STEM educational opportunities for all students. Formed in 2014, the NeoSTEM Ecosystem's goals are to improve meaningful STEM learning opportunities for all students in the Northeast Ohio region. As one of 94 ecosystems operating as a part of the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice, the NeoSTEM Ecosystem holds regular virtual and in-person meetings to learn about what community educational needs are and to develop solutions for those needs. For more information, please contact us at [info@neostem.org](mailto:info@neostem.org).

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