**Mission:** The Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology (CGEST) actively drives the discourse and experiences of underrepresented girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by owning, generating and critiquing the collective body of scholarship on, and offering culturally-responsive programs for, girls and women underrepresented in STEM.

**Purpose:** The Center aims to create an interdisciplinary, racially-ethnically diverse Community of scholars, students, policy makers, and practitioners who explore, identify, and ultimately create innovative scholarship about and best practices for under-represented girls and women (p-20) in STEM.

**Our Approach**

**Advocacy:**
- **Facilitate** outcome-oriented dialogue among universities, researchers, policy makers, funders, and corporations genuinely interested in closing race-gender STEM gaps.
- **Produce** communication strategies to ensure evidence-based practices are accessible to broad audiences.
- **Seek** support for collaborating with organizations interested in researching promising practices for girls from under-resourced communities in STEM.

**Capacity Building:**
- **COMPUGIRLS** is one of the few programs in the nation introducing adolescent girls to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through innovative teaching techniques, social justice and the latest technologies.
- **Co-Robots for COMPUGIRLS** is a robotics education program designed to expand informal science education using culturally responsive curriculum with humanoid co-robotic activities for girls from under-resourced areas.
- **STEM for All** is a project that convenes a diverse group of researchers, practitioners, funding organizations, and policy analysts to develop and implement actionable tasks focused on: culturally relevant practices and their potential for positively affecting underprivileged students’ digital creativity, racial and ethnic identity and its role in technological self-concept, and STEM workforce development for students from high needs areas.
- **The Digital Lives of African American Tweens, Teens, and Parents: Innovating and Learning with Technology** has the research objective to explore the educational impact of technology and digital media on African American families in non-school environments such as at home and in the community. Through this study we hope that program developers, policy makers, funders and the general public will acquire a more complete picture of intragroup differences in African American teens’ technology use; deepen understanding of how to better engage this group in effectively obtaining 21st century technical skills; and identify new recruitment and retention strategies to attract and retain African Americans as technology innovators.

**Knowledge:**
- **Conduct** research synthesizing best practices and strategies that have a heightened sensitivity to intragroup variance among girls and women underrepresented in STEM.
- **Create** new culturally responsive research methods for gathering valid and reliable data on girls and women underrepresented in STEM.
- **Disseminate** research results through academic publications and national platforms in order to contribute to the scholarship on issues related to the advancement of girls and women underrepresented in STEM.

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