White House to Honor STEM Diversity and Access “Champions of Change”

WASHINGTON, DC – On Wednesday, February 26, 2014, the White House will honor ten local heroes who are “Champions of Change” for their innovation in creating diversity and access in STEM fields. These champions are creating opportunities for young people typically underrepresented in STEM industries by using unconventional approaches to enhance student exposure ranging from photography and film, to Hip Hop music, to coding competitions and community-based workshops.

President Obama issued an executive order creating the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans to help restore the United States to its role as the global leader in education; strengthen the Nation by improving educational outcomes for African Americans of all ages; and ensure that American child receives a complete and competitive education that prepares them for college, a successful career, and productive citizenship. As part of National African American History Month, the White House Initiative is proud to honor these leaders for the work they do to make these goals a reality and to ensure even our youngest children become not only consumers in our global economy, but also creative innovators themselves.

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals, businesses, and organizations doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

The event is closed to press but will be live streamed on the White House website. To watch this event live, visit www.whitehouse.gov/live at 10:00 am ET on February 26th. To learn more about the White House Champions of Change program and nominate a Champion, visit www.whitehouse.gov/champions.

Kimberly A. Scott, Executive Director of CompuGirls
Tempe, AZ

Kimberly A. Scott, Ed.D. is an Associate Professor in the Women and Gender Studies Department at Arizona State University and Executive Director of CompuGirls. She is also co-leading the national STEM initiative STEM for All. CompuGirls was founded in 2007 as a technology program for adolescent girls from underserved school districts that offers participants opportunities to work with cutting edge digital media to encourage computational thinking, affect positive change in their communities, enhance techno-social analytical skills and provide a dynamic and fun learning environment that nurtures self-esteem. STEM For All convenes a diverse group of researchers, practitioners, funding organizations, and policy analysts with interest, expertise, and knowledge in culturally relevant practices and its potential for positively affecting underprivileged students’ digital creativity. An active scholar-activist, Scott’s work focuses on issues of social justice with an emphasis on girls’ of color social and academic development.