

Creating a Community for Women Graduate Students in STEM (CCWGS) - FAQ

Q: What's the goal of the program?

A: The aim of our program, which is a pilot program, is to explore a combination of arts event, live conversation events and online follow-up to create a profoundly supportive community for a select group of students and mentors in STEM.

Q: Who is sponsoring this program?

A: The program is sponsored by the [Alfred P. Sloan Foundation](#).

Q: How many days is this program?

A: This is a 2-day program. You must attend both days to become part of the community.

Q: What happens on each of the 2 days?

A: The first day consists of an evening event on **Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 PM** at the Graduate Center CUNY. Students will attend a performance of the play, "Truth Values," and an immediate post-show discussion with leaders in gender equity and STEM. Entitled "Bias and Breakthroughs: Women in STEM," the discussion features [Dr. Victoria Valian](#), Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Hunter College, author of *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women*, and the upcoming book, *An Inclusive Academy: Achieving Diversity and Excellence*.

The second day consists of a mentoring event on **Thursday, April 19 from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM**. The first portion will be spent in discussion about challenges, strategies and opportunities regarding being in the minority in the STEM fields with project leaders Dr. Mazzula and Ms. De Cari (see below). Mentors include:

- [Dr. Lissette Delgado-Cruzata](#), Assistant Professor Molecular Biology, John Jay College
- [Dr. Ann McDermott](#), Professor of Chemistry, Columbia University

Other speakers and mentors to be added soon. Check our Facebook page [HERE](#) for updates.

The second portion will be spent continuing this conversation in smaller groups over lunch with project Mentors. Students will later be asked to fill out a questionnaire related to their experiences with the play, the post-performance discussion, and the mentoring luncheon.

The day concludes with a special panel discussion, "Harrassment Issues in Fieldwork," featuring speakers:

- [Dr. Ana Carnaval](#), Biology
- [Dr. Elizabeth Alter](#), Biology
- [Dr. Maria Tzortziou](#), Earth and Atmospheric Science
- [Dr. Bianca Williams](#), Anthropology

Q: Is there any follow-up?

A: Yes, students will be invited to an online community including a private Facebook group to keep in touch with other students, mentors and project leaders. Later in the summer, there will be an additional in-person networking event that they will be invited to attend.

Q: Who are the leaders of the program?

A: The program was conceived by artist/women's equality activist and former mathematician [Gioia De Cari](#), who is creator of the hit play "Truth Values," about her experiences as a graduate student in math at M.I.T. She wanted to find a way to provide to student attendees of the play the kind of network of colleagues and mentors she wished for in her own graduate experiences. The PI of the program is [Dr. Silvia Mazzula](#), diversity expert, Executive Director of the Latina Researchers Network and Professor

of Psychology at John Jay College, who is devoted to supporting women in higher education, especially those from underrepresented minorities.

Q: Is there a cost for students in this program to attend?

A: No, everything will be provided to attendees at no cost, including a ticket to the show.

Q: I'm an undergrad. Can I apply?

A: Anyone is welcome to apply — undergrads, graduate students, post-docs — although our goal is to specifically provide this program for women graduate students in the STEM fields. So if there is not room for everyone, and you are not a grad student, you may be waitlisted.

Q: I'm not a student at CUNY. Can I apply?

A: Any student is welcome to apply. However since openings are limited, preference will be given to CUNY students.

Q: My friend (mom, dad, professor, sister, brother etc.) wants to come too. Can they?

A: There are a few tickets for the play available to the public that will not be used for the mentoring students. They can be purchased [here](#). We may offer discounts to groups, students, seniors, children, if possible. For info, write <mailto:Info@Unexpectedtheatre.org>.

Q: I'm a faculty member. Can I observe?

A: We have openings for a limited number of faculty mentors, so please do write us at <mailto:Info@Unexpectedtheatre.org>, if you would like to serve as such.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Fill out the questionnaire [here](#). Please note that to advance to each next page you need to click the small arrow at the bottom right corner.