



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Virtual STEM Night to introduce students to possible careers and areas of study**

*April 25 event hosted by STEM Without Boundaries, Baltimore Chapter, is open to all BCPS students in Grades 3 - 12*

Towson, MD – Two Western School of Technology juniors have created an opportunity for all Baltimore County Public Schools students, Grades 3 – 12, to chat with STEM professionals and to learn more about Oregon Ridge Nature Center, the National Aquarium, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Dinosaur Park, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The students behind the upcoming Virtual STEM Night are Eeshani Gupta and Nisttha Ray. Both attend Western Tech’s Academy of Health Professions magnet program and are co-presidents of the Baltimore chapter of the national nonprofit STEM Without Boundaries. Ray is the vice president and Gupta is the competition committee chair of HOSA-Future Health Professionals. The cancellation of their junior year internships due to the COVID-19 pandemic led them to seek this opportunity to lead and to contribute to their community.

“In a developing world, it’s important that students of all ages know how the STEM disciplines correlate to their everyday lives,” said Ray. “Through this event, students will have the opportunity to meet different professionals specializing in these different fields as well as to be introduced to 21st century technology that will be part of their future jobs.”

“My co-president and I are doing this STEM night,” said Gupta, “because we want to provide students of all ages with the necessary exposure to motivate them to pursue a career in the STEM field. We want

to put together successful and informative events where attendees learn about different STEM careers, fields, and experiences, while also giving back to our community through a set of disciplines we are passionate about.”

The free event will take place on Sunday, Apr. 25, from 2 – 5 p.m. Students are asked to [register online](#) and will be able to access the event on Zoom. Please note that students using Chromebooks can access this Zoom event. After clicking the link to enter the event, they should not choose to "Add Zoom to Chrome," but instead they should choose to "Join from Your Browser" and later to "Join Audio by Computer."

The following event agenda features links to event sessions:

**[Opening Ceremony](#) – 2 p.m.**

**Session 1 – 2:25 p.m.**

[Anjali Chadha](#), MIT bioengineering student, nonprofit founder, and researcher at MIT Synthetic Biology Center

OR

[Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Dinosaur Park](#)

**Session 2 – 3 p.m.**

[Dr. Lataisia Jones](#), American Society for Microbiology scientist and Ethics Fellow

OR

[U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#)

**Session 3 – 3:35 p.m.**

[Dr. Jessica Taaffe](#), global health scientist

OR

[National Aquarium](#)

**Session 4 – 4:10 p.m.**

[Dr. Harshini Mukundan](#), Los Alamos National Laboratory team leader/Deputy group leader

OR

[Oregon Ridge Nature Park](#)

**[Closing Ceremony and Announcements](#) – 4:45 p.m.**

The national organization STEM Without Boundaries trains high school students to host successful STEM Nights in their communities by providing all the needed resources, mentorship, and funding. STEM Without Boundaries seeks to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Ray and Gupta credit teacher Bethany Birago for providing inspiration and guidance as she and Gupta planned the STEM Night for BCPS students. Birago, a registered nurse, is an Academy of Health Professions teacher, HOSA-Future Health Professionals advisor, and career and technical education department chair at Western Tech. Ray also notes that many of the speakers for the Apr. 25 event are ambassadors for the [IF/THEN® Collection](#), a free resource designed to encourage girls to promote STEM careers.

Ray and Gupta would also like to credit Bhavin Mistry, a budget analyst in the public sector, for helping them find STEM-related organizations to speak at their event. “He continuously followed up with us,” said Gupta, “and was ready to help whenever we needed his assistance.”

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