

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT:

Lisa O'Brien

Chief Advancement Officer

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**Symposium and Community Conversation:  
*KID Museum and Children's Opportunity Fund Host Creating Inclusive K-12 Learning  
Environments to Support Diversity in STEM***

**Bethesda, Md.** (May 24, 2022) - [KID Museum](#), together with [Children's Opportunity Fund](#) will host a community conversation and breakfast featuring Dr. Ebony McGee, Associate Professor of Education, Diversity and STEM Education at Vanderbilt University. Dr. McGee will share her latest research on the barriers to success in STEM education among Black, Indigenous and Latinx students from her 2021 book, *Black, Brown, Bruised: How Racialized STEM Education Stifles Innovation*.

Guests will include industry leaders, education leaders, community partners and organizations from across Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia committed to fostering equity, inclusion and economic growth for our region.

Together, they will explore how we can work together to build more inclusive learning environments and dismantle the disparities in STEM education that stifle innovation and economic opportunity.

**WHAT:** STEM-based jobs are the fastest growing and highest paying in our region, but there is a significant diversity gap with Black and Latinx populations severely under-represented in these fields. Disparities in STEM engagement begin at an early age and have only widened over the past two years as a result of COVID-19's disruptions to learning. In Montgomery County, MD, for example, Latinx second graders had a 46% drop in math readiness over a one year period and the percentage of Latinx sixth graders failing math jumped from 4% in 2019-20 to 24% in 2020-21.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we face a watershed moment to remake learning to help youth get back on track and fundamentally rethink how we foster more equitable student outcomes to advance greater diversity in our region's STEM talent pipeline.

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**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
8:30 - 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** **KID Museum Bethesda Metro Center**  
3 Bethesda Metro Center  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
*(plaza level/street level with Wisconsin Avenue)*  
**Metro:** Red Line to Bethesda Metro Center

**WHO:** Following Dr. McGee's introductory remarks, she will join a panel discussion with esteemed guests and education leaders:

David Coronado, Program Officer, The Lemelson Foundation  
Dr. Shanika Hope, Director of Tech Education, Google  
Dr. Monifa McKnight, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools  
Byron Johns, Chair, Montgomery County NAACP Parent Council  
*(Facilitator)*

For more information about KID Museum or to attend the Symposium, please contact Lisa O'Brien at [lisa@kid-museum.org](mailto:lisa@kid-museum.org) or (703) 615-1569.

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**About KID Museum**

KID Museum is an experiential, creative learning center based in the Washington D.C. region. The organization fosters the "Mind of a Maker" and empowers the next generation of changemakers with the skills to invent the future. Through hands-on programs, KID Museum challenges young people to be active makers, building agency, confidence, and creative problem-solving skills. KID Museum designs and delivers programs across the full continuum of learning for K-8 students in partnership with

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educators and schools. KID Museum's weekend onsite programs, community events, and live, virtual sessions encourage families to learn and explore together. The organization is part of a growing movement to remake education for every young person, putting them in the driver's seat of their learning and trusting them to be agents of change. For more information, please visit [www.kid-museum.org](http://www.kid-museum.org).