

GIRLS EXPERIENCING ENGINEERING

Patrice Thomas and Tierra Hill



STEM – BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE

2013 marked the 10th anniversary for the Girls Experiencing Engineering (GEE) program. GEE is an interactive, fast-paced program involving activities that motivate and challenge middle and high school female participants to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Since its inception in 2004, GEE has been a WFGM grantee partner and has introduced over 1,200 girls to opportunities through engineering.



“I first attended the Girls Experiencing Engineering (GEE) program when I was a rising junior in high school. My mom signed me up without my knowledge, and when I learned that I had to be in a school setting at 8:00 a.m. during the summer I wasn’t too happy about it. But, I went to GEE and ended up loving it. I was in a room full of girls who were smart and leaders in their schools/communities. I was also introduced to many professional women engineers who came to speak about their jobs. I became motivated because they dared me to dream bigger.

“The following week I was asked to mentor for the Middle School week. To this day I had no idea what Dr. Stephanie Ivey saw in me, but that week changed my life forever. I am now a senior at the University of Memphis majoring in civil engineering.

“Over the course of my ‘GEE years’ I have gained mentors, networked with professionals and been a mentor to others myself. Tierra Hill, who has been both a participant of the program and a mentor to middle school students for years, is attending the University of Memphis and majoring in civil engineering as well. I’m looking forward to helping her navigate through her freshman year of college, as well as having another friend around on campus.”

– Patrice Thomas

“I started GEE my ninth grade year blindly and closed-minded. I did not know what engineering was nor did I want to know. I went into the program thinking, ‘I am not going to be an engineer, and girls don’t do that.’ By the third day, however, I loved it. Because of GEE, I am now an incoming freshman majoring in civil engineering. I probably wouldn’t have chosen civil engineering if it were not for helpful advice and tips from Patrice. She explained the field more thoroughly and she told me how much it has impacted her life. After I graduate and get my bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, I plan to go into the graduate program to earn my master’s degree. After that, I want to open my own environmental engineering firm either in Memphis or Nashville.” – Tierra Hill

