

Shoshana Leffler Highlights the Importance of Equitable STEM Education

Opportunities in STEM Should Be for Everyone



Bronx, New York Jan 9, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Shoshana Leffler, a developmental geneticist and dedicated educator, is on a mission to bring attention to the critical need for equity in STEM education. With a Ph.D. from New York University and years of experience in the classroom, Leffler emphasizes that STEM should be accessible to all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

“Talent exists everywhere, but opportunities don’t,” Leffler says. “We have to break down barriers that prevent students in underserved communities from accessing the tools and resources they need to succeed in STEM fields.”

The lack of diversity in STEM is a persistent issue. According to the National Science Foundation, only 7% of STEM jobs are held by Black and Hispanic workers, despite making up over 30% of the U.S. population. Similarly, women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce.

Making Science Accessible and Engaging

Leffler is raising awareness about the importance of providing resources and support to Title 1 schools, which serve low-income communities. “When students see how STEM relates to their everyday lives, it stops being intimidating and starts being exciting,” she explains.

In her high school chemistry classes, Leffler uses real-world examples like local water testing and the chemistry of cooking to spark curiosity. She advocates for inquiry-based learning, which encourages students to explore, experiment, and think critically.

Research supports her approach. A study by the U.S. Department of Education found that hands-on learning increases retention and interest in STEM subjects by up to 80%.

Creating Pathways to Success

Leffler also stresses the importance of mentorship. “Students need role models who look like them and can show them that a career in STEM is achievable,” she says. She encourages schools to partner with local universities and industries to provide mentorship programs and internships.

“STEM careers are some of the fastest-growing and highest-paying, but too many students are left out of those opportunities,” Leffler notes. “We need to create pathways that connect students with these life-changing possibilities.”

Why It Matters

Investing in equitable STEM education benefits more than just the students—it benefits society. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM occupations are expected to grow by 10.8% by 2031, significantly faster than the average for all occupations. Yet without a diverse pipeline of talent, the nation risks falling short in meeting this demand.

“STEM drives innovation,” Leffler concludes. “By ensuring all students have access to STEM education, we’re not just empowering individuals; we’re building a stronger, more inclusive future.”

About Shoshana Leffler

Shoshana Leffler is a developmental geneticist and award-winning educator based in the Bronx, New York. She earned her A.B. in Chemistry from Princeton University and her Ph.D. in Developmental Genetics from New York University, where her research focused on developing mathematical models to predict childhood brain cancer. Leffler is a passionate advocate for equitable STEM education, inspiring students to explore science through inquiry-based learning and hands-on projects. She has received the prestigious MfA Master Teacher Fellowship for her contributions to STEM education.

Media Contact

Shoshana Leffler

*****@shoshana-leffler.com

Source : Shoshana Leffler

[See on IssueWire](#)