

GW Teach

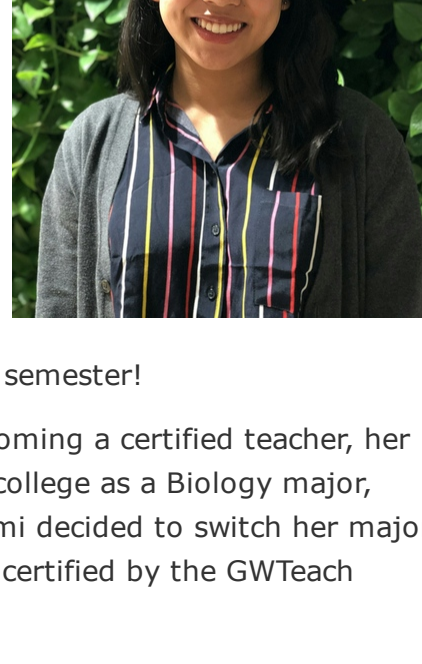
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

FEATURED GWTEACH APPRENTICE TEACHER

SOEMI PHOTAVATH

Soemi Photavath is a Public Health student currently enrolled in GTCH 4000: Apprentice Teaching. She is referred to as Ms. Soemi at the School Without Walls at Francis Stevens, where she is teaching the topic of Forces and Motion to 7th and 8th grade students from February to May.



After working as a teaching assistant for an after-school enrichment program during high school, Soemi began looking for colleges that offered teacher-certification programs. She stumbled across GWTeach's website and later registered for Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Learning. She was hooked; Soemi has now worked in the office for 2 years while taking GWTeach courses each semester!

Though Soemi began GWTeach with the intention of becoming a certified teacher, her path to licensure has not always been clear. She started college as a Biology major, hoping to become a Biology teacher. However, once Soemi decided to switch her major to Public Health, Soemi was not sure if she could still be certified by the GWTeach program.

Soemi was presented with the opportunity to become certified in General Science, and she took it! Combining some classes from her days as a Biology major, other classes from a local community college, and her Praxis scores, Soemi was able to fulfill the requirements to teach middle school science for the Spring 2020 semester.

As an Apprentice Teacher, Soemi has taken advantage of the class hamster, Fluffy, to teach Forces and Motion. Her students will ultimately use their knowledge of Newton's Laws of Motion and Gravity to build a playground for Fluffy. Soemi's students are currently learning to create free-body diagrams, learning vocabulary words such as "inertia", and practicing scientific practices before they begin engineering their own swings, slides, and carousels.

The Apprentice Teaching experience has blown Soemi away. She enjoys the flexibility of having her own classroom, especially being able to plan and implement a whole unit on Forces and Motion. She also loves being able to modify materials for later classes based on the misconceptions she sees students develop. During lunches, Soemi likes taking the time to get to know her students as learners, even though she occasionally has to face uncomfortable questions from the more curious ones. Soemi is 20 years old, but Ms. Soemi is 78!

However, Soemi is finding it difficult to differentiate her lesson plans for her diverse student populations. Each student has a different learning style, and some have learning accommodations that require Soemi to modify lesson materials. Soemi's biggest challenge as an Apprentice Teacher has been teaching blind and visually impaired students. In her struggles, Soemi has found group work to be the most beneficial strategy for this student population; placing the visually impaired students in groups engages them with the science and with their peers, while their group members further reinforce the information by verbalizing their observations.

The most surprising aspect of Apprentice Teaching for Soemi has been her shift in attitude towards attendance; while she initially did not think it was a big deal for students to miss class, she now wishes all students were present every precious minute of learning! Her best moments as an Apprentice Teacher have been watching students genuinely engage in scientific discussion, using their experiences with the physical world to reason through questions such as "What gives objects speed?" or "Why does the person on the swing ultimately stop swinging?"

Though Soemi is not sure if she will be a classroom teacher upon graduation, she is confident that her experiences with GWTeach have given her invaluable skills such as time management, working under pressure, and public speaking in front of all ages. She has also made lifelong friends from the GWTeach community, where everyone shares a passion for equity in education. She hopes that everyone has an equally amazing experience with the GWTeach program!

Interested in checking out the GWTeach program? GWTeach courses are open to all students at GW, so sign up for a Fall 2020 GWTeach class via BanWeb in April!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Apprentice Teaching Scholarship: Apprentice Teaching Scholarships are scholarships up to \$5,000 per year for students pursuing Teacher Certification. Applications are due by Friday, April 3, 2020. For more information email gwteach@gwu.edu.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Financial Need Scholarship: Financial Need Scholarships are scholarships up to \$10,000 per year for GWTeach students pursuing a career in education and who display financial need. Applications are due by Friday, April 3, 2020. For more information email gwteach@gwu.edu.

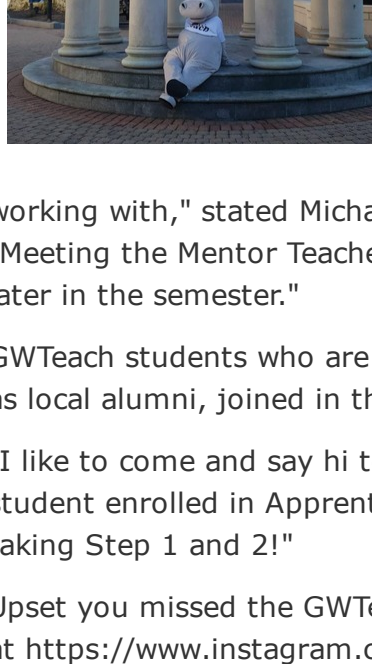
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GWTeach Ambassador Conference Travel Scholarship: The National UTeach Conference will be in Austin, TX from June 30-July 2, 2020. We invite all GWTeach students to submit a poster presentation proposal for the Student Poster Session. If your poster presentation proposal is accepted by UTeach, GWTeach will fund travel expenses to the National UTeach Conference. Applications are due by March 24, 2020. For more information email gwteach@gwu.edu.

[APPLY HERE](#)

GW Noyce Scholarship: Scholarships up to \$20,000 per year are available for juniors and seniors admitted into the Noyce program, which supports STEM majors on their journey to become teachers in high-need schools after graduation. **For more information or to apply visit <https://noyce.columbian.gwu.edu/>.**

PAST GWTEACH EVENTS



MENTOR TEACHER DINNER

On February 3rd, GWTeach held it's biannual Mentor Teacher Dinner. GWTeach students enrolled in classes with field components had the opportunity to meet the DC teachers they would be working with for the semester. GWTeach classes with field components include Step 1, Step 2, Classroom Interactions, Project-Based Learning, and Apprentice Teaching.

While dining on P.F. Chang's, GWTeach students and their Mentor Teachers discussed lesson topics and classroom dynamics for the upcoming teach dates during this semester.

"It's nice to be able to get to know the teacher you're working with," stated Michael Farina, a GWTeach student in Classroom Interactions. "Meeting the Mentor Teachers makes it easier to communicate and discuss lesson plans later in the semester."

GWTeach students who are not currently enrolled in classes with field components, as well as local alumni, joined in the festivities as well.

"I like to come and say hi to everyone at GWTeach," states Charlotte Gaynor, a GWTeach student enrolled in Apprentice Teaching. "I get to meet all the new students who are taking Step 1 and 2!"

Upset you missed the GWTeach Mentor Teacher Dinner? Visit us at https://www.instagram.com/gw_teach to stay updated on GWTeach happenings and be the first to know where on campus the hippo will visit next!

TEACHING RESOURCES

GOOGLE SCIENCE JOURNAL

Data collection tools can get expensive! How many times have you, as a teacher, wanted to engage your students in authentic data collection, but had no idea how to measure decibels, lux, acceleration, or hertz without fancy, difficult to use equipment?



Look no further than Google Science Journal! Google Science Journal will record all of the previously mentioned quantities, all by using various functions already embedded into a smartphone. Physics teachers have previously used the app to teach Newton's Second Law of Motion: students recorded the acceleration of a moving object using Google Science Journal. Given the mass, students were then able to calculate how much force was applied to the object.

Science Journal

Google Science Journal is available for iOS and Android, which means that you or your students can easily download it for in-class experiments. Data points can also be grouped by experiment, so students can use Google Science Journal for multiple labs easily without becoming unorganized.

Google Science Journal is free to download on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

GWTEACH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

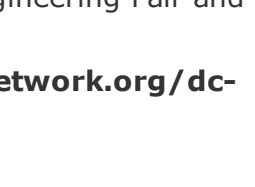
- Mrs. Bitler
- Trinh T.
- Jazmin L.
- Sophia C.
- Alex L.
- Promise H.
- Esther K.
- Stephanie C.
- Jordan B.
- Michael F.
- Taylor S.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & JOB POSTINGS

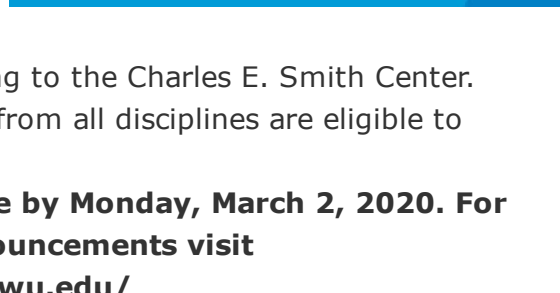
DC STEM FAIR - SEEKING JUDGES

- Saturday, March 14th, 2020
- Dunbar High School (101 N St NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- At the event, students will showcase their research skills and compete for a variety of awards and prizes, including the opportunity to represent the District at the 2020 International Science and Engineering Fair and Broadcom Masters Competition.
- **Register to be a judge at <https://www.dcstemnetwork.org/dc-stem-fair/secondary-stem-fair/>**



GW RESEARCH SHOWCASE

- Tuesday, April 7th, 2020
- Formerly GW Research Days, this event will be held on one day instead of two and is moving to the Charles E. Smith Center.
- Undergraduates and graduates from all disciplines are eligible to participate!
- **Abstract submissions are due by Monday, March 2, 2020. For more details and future announcements visit <https://researchshowcase.gwu.edu/>**



STEM EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP

- May 4-August 7, 2020, Stipend Offered
- This position is with the Teaching and Learning Unit in the Education Department and seeks an intern to work with the museum's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Educator. The STEM Educator Intern will work alongside Education staff as they develop new content that highlights African American STEM contributions. The intern will be a critical member of the Education team as they shape content for pop-up programs, teacher professional development workshops, and large-scale STEM Days.
- **Successful candidates will be a pre-service teacher working to complete a degree in education with a STEM focus** or be a STEM educator with less than 5 years of service.
- **Apply here: Applications due Sunday, March 15th.**



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