

10/30/18 TERC Announces New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

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TERC Announces New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Cambridge, MA — TERC is pleased to announce Dr. Stephen D. Alkins, Jr. as its new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (DEIO). This recently created position reflects TERC's deep commitment to engaging diverse communities and cultivating opportunity and equity within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

As the new DEIO, Dr. Alkins will help TERC attract and retain a diverse workforce, develop training and initiatives to foster an open and inclusive work environment, and establish collaborative partnerships to support underrepresented communities in STEM fields. He will oversee the TERC Scholars Program to nurture the next generation of STEM education innovators.

"The DEIO Search Committee worked as a cohesive team, dedicated to a broad dissemination of the job posting, equitable interview process, thoughtful questions and evaluative rubrics," says TERC president, Laurie Brennan. "Throughout the extensive process, Stephen stood out as a talented, caring and committed professional, a scientist himself with a passion for education. Stephen's ability to think strategically and roll up his sleeves to get the job done convinced me that he is not only the right person for this position, but will also be a key leader at TERC."



Stephen recently earned his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Brandeis University, where he spearheaded diversity recruitment initiatives for STEM graduate programs and served as the Graduate Student Association President and representative to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee with Chair Anita Hill. He was also recognized as a Neuroscience Scholars Program National Fellow for his academic achievements and commitment to enhancing diversity and political advocacy.

Beyond the lab, Stephen has worked as a Math/Science Learning Specialist/Mentor in the Academic Achievement Center at MassBay Community College and co-founded its *Achievement In Math* Program. A graduate of Morehouse College and a spoken word poet, he currently organizes STEM leadership seminars and workshops for young men of color.

Dr. Alkins says, "Creative solutions to complex questions come from the inclusion of diverse people and perspectives. Diversity does not reflect great science. Great science reflects diversity."

About TERC and Its Mission

Founded in 1965, TERC is committed to improving math and science education for all learners. TERC works at the frontiers of theory and practice to: contribute to a deeper understanding of learning and teaching; enhance instruction through teacher professional development; develop ways of applying new technologies to education; create curricula and other products; and support curricular and pedagogical reform, both in school and informal settings. TERC programs involve learners of all ages—early childhood, K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and adult education.

TERC imagines a future in which learners from diverse communities engage in creative, rigorous, and reflective inquiry as an integral part of their lives—a future where teachers and students alike are members of vibrant communities where questioning, problem solving, and experimentation are commonplace. This vision is grounded in the belief that science and math literacies are vital for strengthening and preserving a democratic society.