

Building Educational Communities: STEP UP and PhysTEC Collaboration



Cat Garland

Cat Garland teaches middle school physical science and upper school physics at The Brearley School, an all-girls school in New York City. She received her bachelor's degree in physics from Colby College, her master's degree in Astronomy from the University of Florida and her doctoral degree in Astronomy from the University of Hawai'i. Cat is actively involved in increasing access to STEM education at all levels for all students. She first joined STEP UP as a master teacher and has continued to work with the STEP UP team in various capacities throughout the years, most recently as the New York City Regional Coordinator.



Ghada Nehmeh

Ghada Nehmeh has a Ph.D. in science Education from Stony Brook University. Her research focuses on Physics Education and improvement of Underrepresentation of women in physics. She has been teaching Physics, mainly AP physics with Calculus at the Bronx HS of Science for 16 years. She is NYC regional coordinator at STEP UP and Master teacher II + at Math for America.



Robert Krakehl

Assistant Professor at Farmingdale State College. He is currently a co-chair of the PoLS-T Physics teacher network and a PhysTEC lead with STEP UP. His current research focuses on access and equity to STEM education for both teachers and students, and the creation and utilization of open source digital data sensors for schools.



Kori
Bowns-Kamphuis

Kori Bowns-Kamphuis teaches physics and coaches the FIRST robotics teams at Lindblom Math and Science Academy in Chicago, Illinois. She received her bachelor's degree in physics education and her master's degree in science education from Illinois Institute of Technology. She is the STEP UP Regional Coordinator for Chicago and is a member of the University of Illinois' IPaSS partnership program as well as an avid volunteer for FIRST Illinois Robotics.



Praisly Poluan

Praisly is a high school STEM teacher and education researcher in Southern California. She earned her bachelor's in education and minor in biomedical engineering from UC Irvine, and her master's in physics and math education and doctorate in educational leadership from USC. She is dedicated to collaboratively engaging with colleagues to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in education and help students achieve their potential as global citizens. She is an avid world traveler and active wolfpack mom of three rescues. In her spare time, Praisly has taken up painting and volleyball. She also loves music and karaoke!