Transcript

Why do you belong in STEM?

Rashid
As a former Afghan refugee, there are not that many refugee programmers or others like myself on my course. Not many tech CEOs of refugees or from Afghanistan, and fighting both is like finding a unicorn. I want to break barriers and be an example of this.

Najiya
By studying STEM, I hope to bring more awareness to these diverse contributions and to ensure a more inclusive recognition of achievements in mathematics. I aspire to leverage my STEM education to contribute to meaningful advancements in technology and society.
I hope to engage in research that addresses pressing global issues such as climate change and sustainable development. Additionally, I am passionate about mentoring young girls and students from underrepresented communities, encouraging them to explore and succeed in STEM fields. Diversity in STEM goes beyond gender or ethnicity—it includes a wide array of backgrounds, perspectives, and ways of thinking. Every individual brings a different set of ideas to the table, which is crucial for groundbreaking research and real-world applications.
As a Muslim woman in mathematics, I encounter various viewpoints and problem-solving approaches that enrich my learning and contribute to a more holistic educational environment. STEM is not just for the historically represented groups; it is for everyone who has curiosity and a commitment to understanding the world. By including more women, ethnic minorities, and underrepresented communities, STEM fields become more reflective of the society they aim to serve.
This inclusivity not only enhances creativity and innovation but also empowers marginalized communities by providing them with the tools for economic and social mobility. To conclude, everyone belongs in STEM. It is essential for educational institutions and industries to foster an environment where diverse talents are nurtured. Embracing this diversity will drive progress and help us build a better and more inclusive future.

Jill Shaw
I feel like I really do belong in STEM. Earlier in my career, as a female in a male-dominated industry, I sometimes felt a bit lonely or different. But I found that building my network and exploring different job opportunities really helped me establish myself as someone who does belong in computing and STEM.
I enjoy the opportunity now to encourage people from a variety of backgrounds to study STEM subjects. Working in computing, where things change so frequently, can be a challenge to keep up to date. But it also means there's always something new to learn and a new perspective to hear from, making it a really interesting area to work in.

Dhouha Kbaier
I belong in STEM because I'm driven by curiosity and the desire to innovate. As someone who thrives on collaboration and problem-solving, I have found my place in STEM. As a researcher, it's a space where I can use my skills to empower others, especially women and underrepresented groups, and prove that there is room for everyone in STEM.

Andrew
I think that everyone belongs in STEM—it is for everyone. But I think that queer people like me have a particular perspective that is highly valuable in STEM. Queer people, LGBTQ+ individuals, by their very existence, defy the norm. That's what makes us queer. But it's also what makes a good STEM professional.
You have to be able to challenge convention in order to make progress in STEM, and queer people, in particular, offer a unique perspective in doing that.