

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



TENNESSEE STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Tennessee's graduating class of 2017 was **19.8**.

Percentage of all Tennessee ACT-tested HS Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	29%	29%	13%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	8%	14%	9%

Tennessee College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	28%	30%	12%
White	36%	36%	17%
Pacific Islander	35%	31%	13%
Hispanic	21%	20%	8%
Asian	60%	51%	37%
Native American	13%	16%	7%
Black	10%	10%	3%

The data in this report represent all ACT-tested students in Tennessee's 2017 graduating class.

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Tennessee

34,768 Tennessee students, or 46%, had an interest in STEM, but only 11,348 (15%) had **both** an expressed interest (they plan to pursue a STEM major or career) and a measured interest (their ACT Interest Inventory score pointed to a STEM field).

Tennessee's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 137 students planned to enter math education, and only 40 science education.

TENNESSEE STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Jeannette Irakunda

Lead Academy, class of 2017

In what grade did you first become interested in a STEM field?

Ninth Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

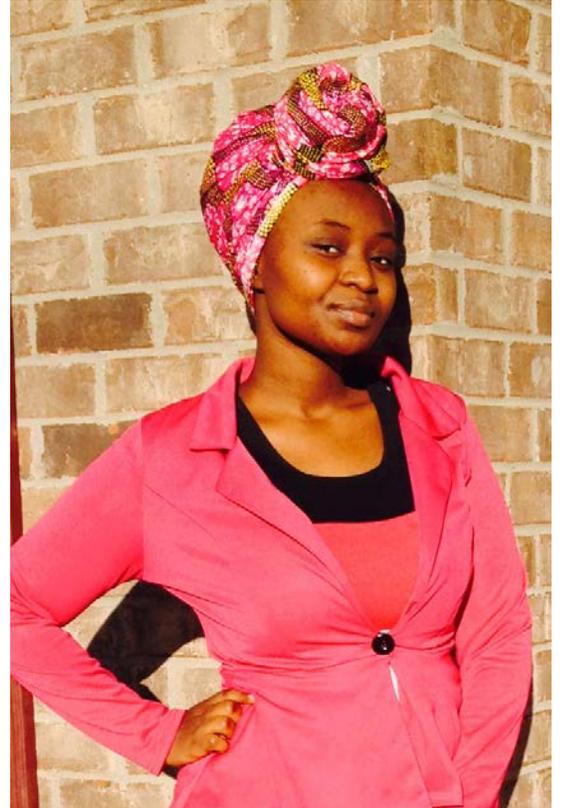
My father sparked my initial interest in STEM because he thought that it would offer more opportunities than I had while growing up in a refugee camp. He sacrificed so much for me to become strong in the science and math departments.

How do you picture your future, in higher education and career?

For a while, I have been stuck in between becoming an accountant or a pediatrician. I work well with numbers but I also like being able to heal people, especially kids. My major at the moment is accounting, but being a pediatrician is still on my mind.

What challenges do STEM students face when following through with their interest in STEM fields?

One of the biggest challenge STEM students face is the heavy and difficult workload. But in a way, it's preparation for the future.



ACT thanks STEMPremier for sharing student STEM profiles for this report.

