



MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER PRESENTS 2025 STEM AWARDS

*Outstanding Young Engineer, Scientist, Educator,
and Baltimore City Student Honored*

The Maryland Science Center has announced the recipients of its 2025 STEM Awards honoring scientific research, teaching excellence, and academic achievement. The awards were presented at a ceremony at the Science Center on May 15, 2025.

“The Maryland Science Center inspires curiosity and exploration, and shares the process and joys of the scientific process,” said Mark J. Potter, President and CEO of the Maryland Science Center. “Our annual STEM awards honor that process by recognizing young professionals, students, and educational advocates. This year’s winners merit these prestigious awards and serve as models for others pursuing work, education, and careers in science.”

Said Mollie Thompson, Chair of the Scientific Council, “Our OYE and OYS winners show that institutions in Maryland attract and cultivate the world’s leading scientists and engineers. We are pleased to shine a light on their achievement.”

The awards ceremony was sponsored by Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering, W. R. Grace, and TransAmerica

Outstanding Young Engineer (OYE)

**Katharina Maisel, Ph.D. - Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering
Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices, University of Maryland**

Dr. Maisel has made groundbreaking contributions to immunoengineering and drug delivery. Her Lab uses in vitro modeling, nanotechnology, and immunoengineering approaches to study and develop treatments for diseases at mucosal surfaces. This work creates crucial fundamental knowledge about stromal cell involvement in disease pathology and leads to novel targets and design criteria for therapeutics.

The OYE award is given to a professional age 35 or younger who works in academia, or 40 or younger for those in other sectors. Honorees are selected by members of the Maryland Science Center’s Scientific and Education Advisory Council.

Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS)

Alexander (Sasha) Philippov - Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, University of Maryland

Plasma astrophysicist Sasha Philippov is advancing our understanding of cosmic phenomena, particularly pulsars, neutron stars, and black holes. He constructed the first models explaining the mysterious coherent emission of pulsars, magnetized neutron stars that rapidly rotate. They were poorly understood until Philippov described the mechanisms allowing relativistic lightning strong enough to shoot beams of radio waves out into space.

The OYS award is bestowed on professionals age 35 or younger who work in academia, or 40 or younger for those in other sectors. Honorees are selected by members of the Maryland Science Center's Scientific and Education Advisory Council.

Dr. H. Bentley Glass Scholarship

Curelle Myles - Baltimore City College

Curelle graduated in June with an International Baccalaureate Full Diploma from Baltimore City College. She has been a Johns Hopkins University SARE Scholar, where she experienced working on STEM research in college labs. This Fall, Curelle will begin pursuing a major in biochemistry at the University of Scranton.

The Dr. H. Bentley Glass Scholarship is awarded to a Baltimore City high school student who intends to pursue STEM studies in college.

Maryland Outstanding STEM Educator

Iota Gamma Omega Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

AKA's Ivy Community Charities in the Landover and Suitland communities supports engagement with students through The Popcorn Club. This group provides the means and school support to bring the MSC Traveling Science Program to elementary schools in Prince Georges County in recognition of providing inspiring STEM enrichment.

The STEM Educator award is presented to an elementary or middle school educator or organization supporting the Maryland Science Center as it fulfills its mission to inspire, empower, and engage students in informal STEM education.