

**Darian S. James, PhD**

Dr. Darian S. James earned her B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from South Carolina State University (2015), and her M.S. (2017) and Ph.D. (2021) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Biomedical Engineering. Her dissertation work focused on using minimally invasive imaging techniques to examine and characterize disease progression in a fatal lung disease called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. At UW-Madison Darian was a Graduate Research Scholar, and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research and LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate Fellow. She currently works as an R&D (research and development) Professional Development Program Scientist at Pfizer. In her free time, Darian enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, giving back to the community, and working with the STEMming PhorwarD team to inspire, mentor, and support the next

generation of underrepresented minorities in STEM.

**Tasia Bryson, PhD**

Dr. Tasia Bryson recently received her doctorate in Science Education at the Mallinson Institute of Science Education at Western Michigan University. Her research focuses on examining the impact of the advisor-advisee relationship on underrepresented students' degree completion in science graduate programs. Specifically, she is focused on examining how and why Black and Latinx students in STEM graduate programs select their advisors, and their perceptions of the advisor-advisee relationship. She earned her master's degree in Higher Education Administration and her bachelors' degree in Chemistry with a Biochemistry Specialization from Chicago State University. Currently, Dr. Bryson works as the Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the I CAN PERSIST STEM Initiative at the University of

Massachusetts-Boston and she serves as the STEM Project Specialist for Chicago State University. Additionally, she is the founder and CEO of Scientists That Elevate Me, LLC which allows students nationwide to be exposed to and gain knowledge of various STEM academic opportunities and career options. Her efforts are geared towards increasing recruitment, retention, and graduation rates for Students of Color majoring in STEM programs. She is also extremely active within the Roseland Community in Chicago through the Kids Off the Block organization.