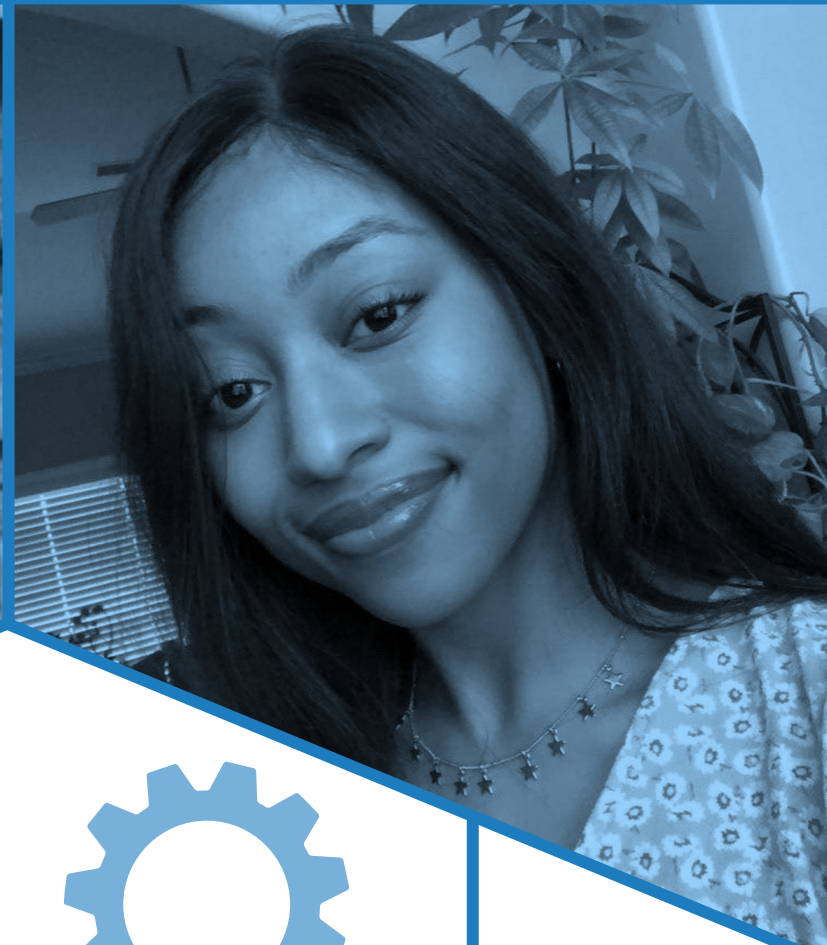


STEM AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



Essence Pitts
Civil Engineering



How did you select your college major? What was the biggest influence?

Ever since my Sophomore year of high school, I was so interested in the idea of becoming an Environmentalist. When I found that Environmental Engineering is a sub-discipline of Civil Engineering, I dove right in. My biggest influence was Dr. Ivey. I was very close to settling for Earth Sciences, but thankfully, she informed me of all the possibilities of being a Civil Engineer.

What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your major?

Be willing to work hard and try to keep a positive mindset. Engineering is one of the toughest majors there is, but the impact you will have on the world will be worth it all.

What high school elective course do you wish you had taken to better prepare you for college?

I definitely wish I had taken Physics. Getting an early start on learning the fundamentals of engineering is so important.

When you aren't in class or studying, what can you be found doing in your spare time?

I'm usually hanging out with friends, at the Wellness Center on campus working out, or kickboxing.

What motivates you to get out of bed and go to class every day?

Having an encouraging support system that keeps me focused. Also, having enthusiastic teachers that make learning fun and clearly want me to succeed makes me want to work harder.

How do you or your major make a positive impact on society/our community?

Civil engineers help develop our society; They design and build infrastructure that essentially improves the quality of life.

What do you look forward to the most while being a STEM Ambassador?

I cherish being in a position to inspire, influence, and contribute to educating the youth. I also love the idea of possibly helping someone realize their true potential.

