



# SEEK SOARS IN 2013!



J.R. THOMASON

(at top) More than 500 parents assembled for orientation on an early Saturday morning in Washington, D.C.

(above) A mother fills out registration forms at SEEK New Orleans' Parent Orientation.

Consider the numbers. From two sites in one city in 2007, the year the program was founded, NSBE's Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) Academy grew to these dimensions in 2013: 12 sites, 10 cities, 3,500-plus students, 3,500-plus parents, 10 parent committees, 400-plus mentors, 21 site leaders, 640 student presentations, 28,000 student assessments and \$1.9 million in sponsorships. And the list goes on!

The goal of SEEK is to help fulfill the nation's growing need for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)-trained professionals, by putting more underrepresented minority, kindergarten through 12th grade students into the pipeline to engineering careers. The SEEK students, in grades 3 through 8 this year, are guided through the program's team-based engineering design competitions by "SEEK mentors," collegiate members of NSBE from across the country. SEEK is the nation's largest engineering activity geared toward African-American children. Many of the 2013 SEEK Academies were held in urban locations serving young people who otherwise would not be exposed to STEM. SEEK's curriculum is provided by SAE International, NSBE's partner in SEEK, and by San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

SEEK Academies were held in 10 cities this year, including Jackson, Miss., where more than 300 students in grades 3–5 participated in the first SEEK activity exclusively for girls. The program, made possible by a \$200,000 grant from Northrop Grumman Foundation, sought to spotlight and address the dearth of black women in engineering and other STEM fields. NSBE National Chair Sossena Wood and NSBE National Vice Chair Lacie Pierre attended the SEEK Academy in Jackson, which was also aligned with Chairwoman Wood's goal of "Empowering Black Women in STEM." Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant attended the event, on July 11 — one of several high-ranking officials who visited SEEK sites.

Besides Jackson, NSBE held SEEK Academies in Brooklyn, N.Y., Denver, Colo., Detroit, Mich., Houston, Texas, New Orleans, La., Oakland, Calif., Philadelphia, Pa., San Diego, Calif., and Washington, D.C.





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(above) "Ready, set, go!" for solar cars at Maxwell Elementary School, in Denver, Colo.



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(at right) Perfume smelling became an art for this Jackson, Miss., participant, thanks to the fragrance and flavor company Firmenich.

**"Empowering Black Women in STEM":** (at right) NSBE National Chair Sossena Wood addresses the SEEK Academy in Jackson, Miss., the first SEEK activity exclusively for girls.



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(below) More than 410 students participated in SEEK Oakland, which was held at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.



AJINTARD HENDERSON





KRISTINE DI GRIGOLI, ARTCHICK PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC



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(above, left) Parents give full attention during the parent orientation in Philadelphia, Pa.

(above, right) A SEEK mentor welcomes parents in Houston, Texas.

(at left) Students get set to race solar cars at Delaplaine McDaniel Elementary School, in Philadelphia, Pa.



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(at right) A Gravity Cruiser is ready to go in Denver, Colo.

(below) Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant (back row, center) flanked by Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. (left), and NSBE Executive Director Carl B. Mack; (front row) Firmenich representatives



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- (at top) A team displays its winning steel can rover in Detroit, Mich.
- (above, left) Fuel cell cars on display in Oakland, Calif.
- (above, center) NSBE National Chair Sossena Wood addresses the SEEK Parent Orientation in Washington, D.C.
- (above, right) Chairwoman Wood with NSBE National Vice Chair Lacie Pierre, at SEEK Denver

## MAJOR SPONSORS

SEEK could not have soared in 2013 without the vision and commitment of organizations that provided financial support. NSBE gives a big Thank You!!! to the major sponsors listed here, as well as the many others who contributed.

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(above) The D.C. mentors strike a pose. Each SEEK Academy was led by 50 mentors.

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(right) A Brooklyn, N.Y., mentor helps assess glider assembly.