

Engineering the Future through Equity and STEM Education

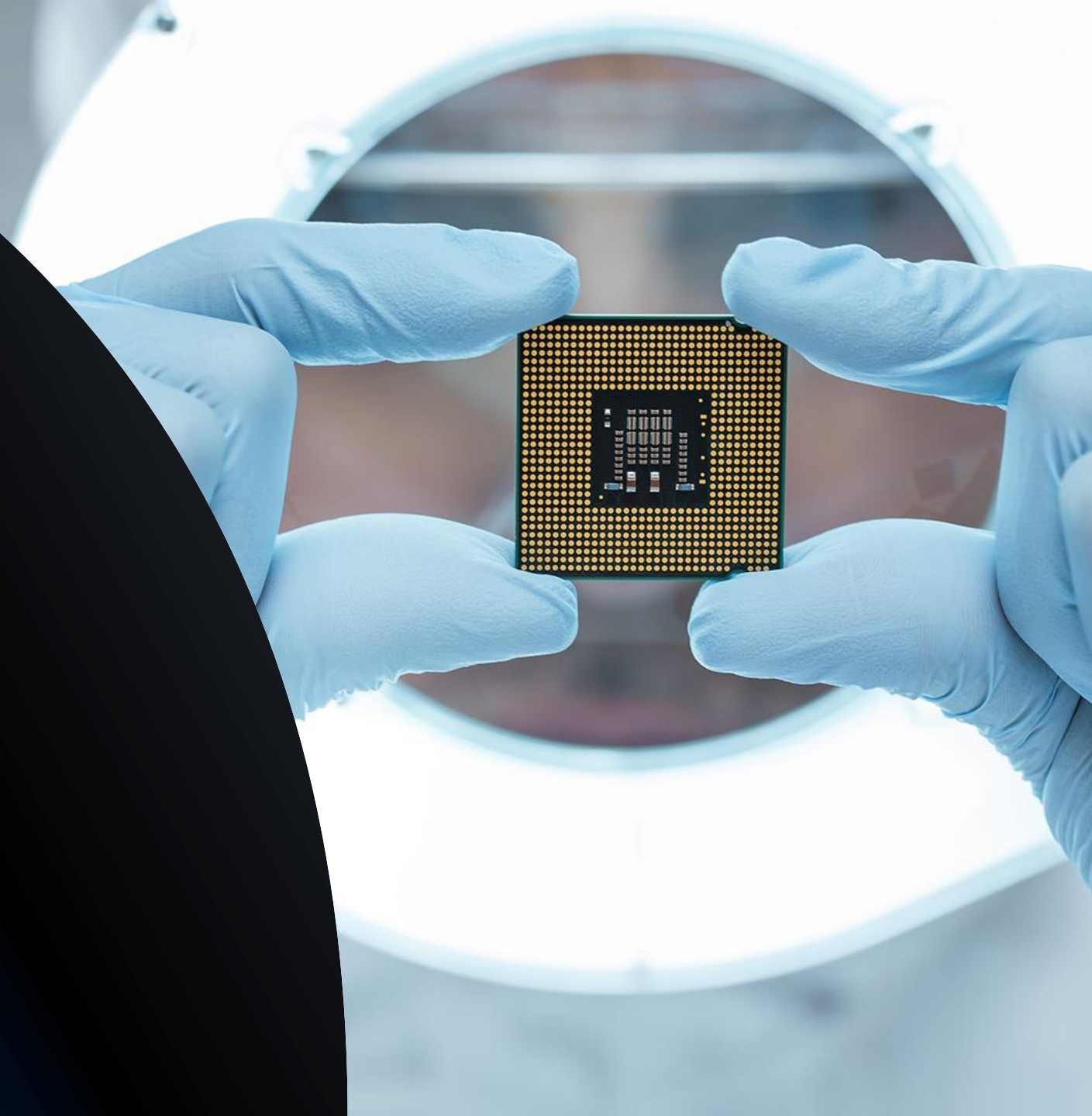
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Head of Social Impact and STEM Programs

Twitter—

@Robert_Simmons3



I am from...

A place where being home before the streetlights meant just that

The smell of country ham, over easy eggs and grits started the day

A place where 8 Mile Road is more than a movie but the dividing line between city and suburbs

A neighborhood around the corner from the Detroit Rebellion in 1967, which wasn't a riot but the voices of the unheard

A place where I hated high school and struggled to maintain a 2.0 prior to my junior year

A place where I was only the second Black man to become a tenured professor at Loyola University Maryland

A place where much of what I know about education I learned from my middle school students in the Detroit Public Schools

The legacy of Black fathers, who love their Black sons and remain afraid for them on a daily basis

My ancestors' blood & sweat in Tennessee, factory workers in Detroit, a Spelman educated mother and a Morehouse educated father—who was incarcerated much of my life



**Hip hop and STEM
saved my life...**

**Hip hop and STEM
changed my life...**





My teacher
thought I was
smarter than I
was – so I was.

Six-year-old



**Educator Deborah Peek-Brown
on Bringing Family Stories Into the Classroom**

**Who was the teacher who told you
that you were smarter than you
were?**



MIND THE GAP

3 leadership lessons at the intersection of STEM education, equity, and racial diversity in the teaching force

It's not enough to talk about recruiting teachers of color, we must be better, so they STAY

Will

Do we have the desire, intrinsic motivation, passion of commitment to do this work AND support the STEM educators we aim to retain?

Hearing ears and open minds

Are we really going to hear the stories and do something different? Are we willing to create a culture of belonging, a safe space where they can be their authentic selves, rather than push them to assimilate into a world that wasn't built for them?

Cultural Humility

Are we committed to the lifelong process focusing on self-reflection, personal critique, acknowledging one's own biases, AND dismantling systemic barriers while acknowledging legacies of exclusion?



The SuccessElite^{SE}

“Self-reflection is the school of wisdom.”

– Baltasar Gracian

- Which parts of my identity am I aware of? Which are most salient?
- Which parts of my identity are privilege and/or marginalized?
 - Two things can be true at the same time
- How does my sense of identity shift based on context and settings?
- What might be my own blind spots and biases?

Promoting Equity in STEM Education at Micron Technology and the Micron Foundation



Public-Private Partnership

**Micron Foundation,
National Science
Foundation and
Schumer announce**

\$10 million

**commitment to
semiconductor**



FUNDER COLLABORATIVE FORMED TO INCREASE STEM YOUTH PROGRAMMING

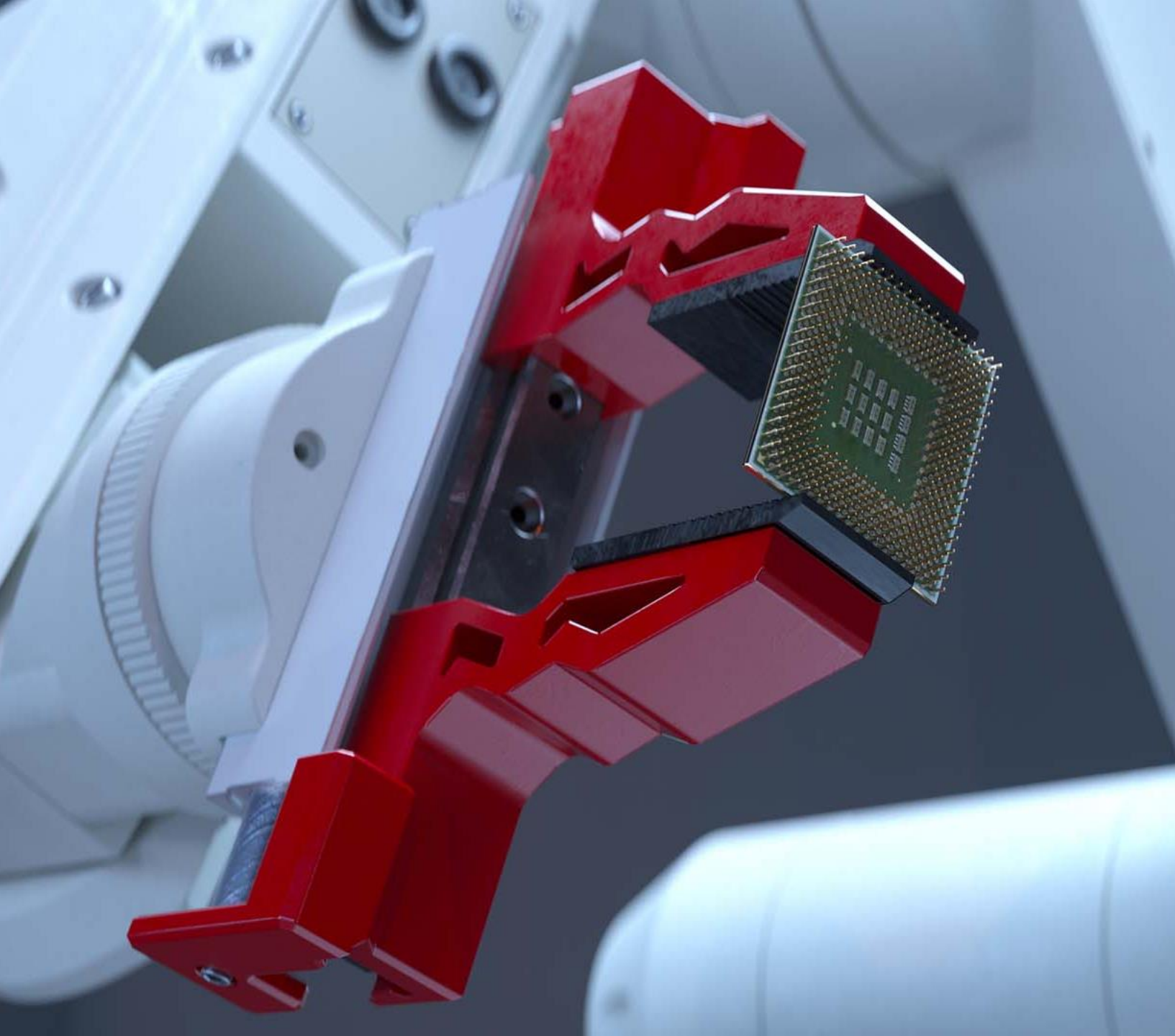


Announcing the Micron Foundation Nonprofit Leaders of Color Fellows



**How do we support
teachers? Work with
universities?**





Chip Camp Jr.

**Supporting
teachers...learning from
teachers...and working
with universities**

Doing this work with--

- Collaboration as a driver
- Equity at the center
- Grace as a mindset
- Students at our core

You Will Be Found: STEM From Dance Performance



**How are you/we going to
help young people
unwrap their brilliance in
STEM?**



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