



Biography

Michelle L. Reaves

Executive Director, DAPCEP



Michelle L. Reaves serves as the Executive Director of the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP). DAPCEP is a nonprofit organization with over 40 years of experience providing standards-aligned science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educational experiences for PreK through 12th grade students. In partnership with universities, corporations and K-12 school systems, DAPCEP serves approximately 11,000 students annually and has over 68,000 alumni. Michelle is the first female director of DAPCEP.

Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Michelle was DAPCEP's Deputy Director for five years. She is the chief architect of several DAPCEP initiatives including the popular PreK-3rd grade Explorers Program, the annual STEM Day held at the Michigan Science Center, GEAR-UP student programming, the bi-annual DAPCEP Student Showcase, and the STEM In-State and Out-of-State College Tours. Leading the very successful "Preparing African American Males in Energy and Education" (PAAMEE) project, that was underwritten by the National Science Foundation, Michelle ensures that 240 African American males will be prepared for careers in Renewable Energy and Power Generation. She also facilitates DAPCEP's long range strategic plan and national expansion efforts; including rolling-out the first out-of-state program with Bradley University and Peoria, IL School District.

Michelle has over 15 years of experience in providing enrichment opportunities for students underrepresented in the science, technical, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) fields. Prior to DAPCEP, she was the Assistant Director of the Pre-College and Outreach programs in the College of Engineering at Wayne State University (WSU). Michelle graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She completed a Master of Business Administration from Wayne State University. She has also earned her Certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

Her initial work experience began in the private sector, and those professional business skills and experiences transferred well into academia. Her efforts included proposal writing to obtain funding for current and new pre-college program and managing the daily activities of each program. Through her work with college and pre-college level students, she helped increase the number of underrepresented minorities considering STEM fields as a career choice. Some of the programs she managed in the College of Engineering at WSU include, Young Men in Engineering

Program (YMEP) Girls Advancing in Math, Engineering, and Science (GAMES), Women in Engineering Training (WET), High School Engineering Training Institute (HSETI), Michigan chapter of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (MI-LSAMP), and Center of Academic Excellence in National Security Intelligence Studies (CAE-NSIS). She is a member of the New Detroit Leadership Board, a coalition working toward racial understanding and equity.

Michelle is married to James Reaves II and has two children, Kennedy and James Reaves III.

Awards:

- *Corp!* Diversity Champion: 2020
- *Crains Detroit Business* Notable Women in STEM: 2019
- Excellence in STEM award from the American Association of Blacks in Energy
- Women in STEM Certificate of Achievement from the State of Michigan