

Dr. Calvin Mackie, an Acclaimed STEM Educator, Links Marvel's First Black Captain America to the Power of STEM Education

STEM Global Action Founder Dr. Calvin Mackie Sees STEM Education as powerful 'Superhero Force' Creating Quality Jobs and Careers for Black & Brown students

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STEM empowered Captain America

Dr. Calvin Mackie is the founder of [STEM Global Action](#) (SGA), a campaign and network of affiliates that bring

science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to children and teenagers in New Orleans, and other parts of the country. As a veteran STEM professional, he sees a strong bond between Marvel's fictional cinematic universe and the vital role that STEM education plays

in propelling children from under-resourced and underrepresented communities into high-paying and sustainable careers.

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Dr. Calvin Mackie

His brother, New Orleans native [Anthony Mackie](#), portrays Sam Wilson on the Disney+ miniseries *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, and recently became the first Black Captain America in the Marvel Universe. “As a superhero, Wilson overcomes ferocious enemies and his own doubts about bearing the legacy of Capitan America,” says Calvin Mackie. “He also confronts the concerns of others that no self-respecting Black man should even want to protect

America considering its historic mistreatment of Blacks. In real life, my brother has also prevailed against the odds. When we lost our mother growing up, our family banded together and made his dreams come true: Anthony went to acting school.”

Through hard work, Anthony Mackie is a star of the stage, film and television. In today's America, that creates an inspiring narrative. "A powerful triumph," says Calvin Mackie, noting that African Americans face unconscious and conscious bias in a nation built on the discredited belief in a racial hierarchy that puts people of color on the bottom rung of society.

In the show, Sam Wilson is never the strongest in battle. He relies on STEM to win. From his mechanical wings infused with Vibranium from Wakanda that enable him to fly, to his "Redwing" combat and reconnaissance drones, Wilson wins with a mastery of science and physics, of calculations and probabilities, and most importantly, by turning smarts and technology into paths for success. "Kudos to Marvel for elevating a Black man to succeeding with his intellect, rather than stereotypical physical attributes like speed, agility or brute force," adds Dr. Mackie.

First from his garage on weekends, and now through comprehensive videos, virtual classes and gatherings sponsored by government, philanthropic and private sector leaders, Dr. Mackie lectures that STEM is the great equalizer. "Armed with STEM education, racial, ethnic and gender barriers can't block the success of our children," says Dr. Mackie. "STEM will lead to quality careers that can support families and lift communities."

Dr. Mackie, a former tenured Tulane Engineering professor, first founded STEM NOLA in 2013 to expose, inspire and engage communities in learning STEM. Their award-winning programs provide activities, events and virtual learning to communities. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization specialized in hosting events and bringing STEM experiences to urban neighborhoods. Over the past eight years, STEM NOLA, which is now an affiliate of STEM Global



Dr. Calvin Mackie

Action, has engaged more than 70,000 students, 17,000 families and 2,150 schools across the U.S. and in five other countries. Their programs are continuing to expand to new locations across the country.

“Think of STEM as Captain America’s new indestructible, vibranium shield,” says Dr. Mackie. “It can help tackle life’s toughest foes, like racism, poverty and discrimination. They are no match for it. STEM is the doorway to the future, the superhero providing careers, family security and neighborhood stability. The best part is students don’t have to live in a cinematic verse to experience it, just study hard, learn STEM and it can create pathways forward.”

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For broadcast or print interviews with Dr. Mackie, please contact Michael K. Frisby at 202-625-4328 or mike@frisbyassociates.com

Enjoy these SGA activities raising awareness of #STEMEducation:

Let’s Talk STEM with Dr. Calvin Mackie (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09UIxvYWEQwa>), a podcast series that features interviews with guests from all aspects of STEM – entrepreneurs, educators, corporate leaders, students – who will talk about the importance of STEM in their lives today. They are the mentors for the next generation of STEM leaders, models of success for others to follow.

Visit the STEM Global Action website at www.STEMglobalaction.com where you can find:

STEM Global Action Today, a newsletter (<https://stemglobalaction.com/stem-global-action-today/>) with comprehensive articles on some of the most important issues related to STEM, and takes readers into the lives of STEM educators and their extraordinary students, who will be the STEM leaders of tomorrow.

STEM Global Action Data Center (<https://stemglobalaction.com/stem-data-center/>), a one-stop resource library for studies, reports, video presentations and news coverage about STEM.

STEM Global Action Newsroom (<https://stemglobalaction.com/newsroom/>), an archive of press releases, media coverage, videos and online stories about SGA’s work and our affiliate organizations, such as STEM Baton Rouge (LA), STEM Grambling (LA), STEM NOLA (LA), STEM Illinois (IL) and STEM Lafayette (LA) as well as our associate organizations - STEM Little Rock (AR), STEM Houston (TX), STEM Charlotte (NC), STEM Ghana (Africa) and STEM Tanzania (Africa).

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