



Dr. Jeremy Babendure created and oversees the Chief Science Officer Initiative. He is the Executive Director of the Arizona Technology Council Foundation (AZTC), Annual Arizona SciTech Festival Initiative, Research Fellow Institute for Learning Innovation, and Assistant Professor at Arizona State University School of Molecular Sciences. The annual SciTech Festival includes over 800 collaborators, 1,200 events and draws over 400,000 participants. Most recently he has launched the Chief Science Officers Initiative, transforming student voice in the conversation about Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM) and education and the Arizona STEM School Community of Practice bringing together 60 diverse schools teams focused on STEM. In Southern California, several pilot projects have begun to bring the CSO program to California. Pasadena, Orange County, and San Diego have signed on to initiate the Chief Science Officers Program in their districts.

Dr. Dawn Mooney Digrius is the project lead for the Pasadena area.

What is a Chief Science Officer?

A Chief Science Officer or “CSO” is a 6th to 12th grade student elected by their peers to represent their school in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and innovation. The 2017-18 year marks the inaugural year for Pasadena Unified.

How are Chief Science Officers selected?

CSOs are elected through a **General Election** at their school. Often this is done in connection with student government, but not required. Many had to deliver speeches and write essays on the importance of STEM education. Each school has the flexibility to choose an election format that best fits their school culture, just as long as it's a general election.

Who is sponsoring the Chief Science Officer Program?

Currently, the CSO program is being supported through time from volunteers and the membership fees of participating schools. We are actively seeking sponsorship to help build stronger on-site support for CSOs around the state.

What Support Systems are Available to a CSO ?

- **Program Related Support Includes:**
 - Informational Website – first stop for calendar, profiles and mentors
 - Canvas online class
 - CSO Coordinator – full time certified teacher
 - Training institute – Summer 2017
 - State cabinet meetings
 - Survival guide to best CSO practices
- **Community Related Support Includes:**
 - On-site Teacher Point of Contact
 - Administrative – Principal/Superintendent backing
 - Parent – CSO Parent Organization under review
 - Having a Fellow Counter Part CSO at school
 - Collective Action Projects – working together for the greater good
 - Regional Projects and Events – networking and developing presentation skills
 - Community of Practice – 90 schools, 130 CSOs and growing!
 - SciTech Jedi mentors – community members who want partnership with the school

Who Can I contact for more information?

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www.chiefscienceofficers.org