

#### STEM BARRIERS

#### **Socialisation of Youth**

- Gender based socialisation
  - **✓** STEM Concepts
  - ✓ Games & Toys designs
- STEM is Masculine

## **Cultural & Social Norms**

- Home & Work environment conflict
- Complex relationships
  - **✓** Policies
  - ✓ Practices
  - ✓ Belief Systems
- Women are held to dual expectations in the work place

#### **Stereotype Threats**

- Gender Stereotypes
- Negative comments & low expectations for Girls harming their ability to perform
- Misconceptions & Misperceptions about intellectual ability of Girls

# Unconducive Work & School Environment

- Access to female hygiene products
- Ergonomics in the work place
- Family-life balance
- Perceived compatibility of certain STEM fields with female identity



Boys possess more innate STEM ability than girls.

Girls are bad at science and math.

STEM resources are available equally to girls and boys, why don't girls use them?



Fewer women than men have the very high levels of 'intrinsic aptitude' that STEM jobs require.

Classroom
interventions that
work to increase
girls' interest in
STEM run the risk of
turning off the boys.

You have to code to be in technology.



### STEM STATISTICS

Over 62 Million girls do not have access to education

60% of South Africans do not have grade 12 certificate, preventing the growth of # STEM and # Skills

Only 35% of higher education students studying STEM subjects are Women

Source: UNESCO

Women make up less than 30% of the people working in STEM careers. The situation is worse in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



Only 17 women have been awarded a Nobel Prize in physics, chemistry or medicine since 1903

Only 11% of all engineers globally are female

There will be 7 million new STEM jobs in Europe by 2025 and not enough people to fill them



#### HIDDEN FIGURES



Taraji P. Henson

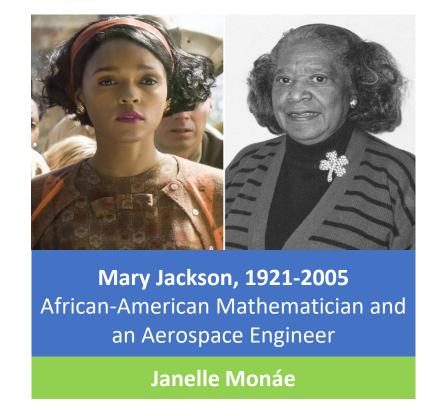
African-American Mathematician



Dorothy Vaughan, 1910-2008

African-American Mathematician and a self taught Computer Programmer

**Octavia Spencer** 





Hidden figures who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in the US history: The launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit.

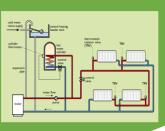
**Dr Shirley Jackson** 

Scientific Breakthrough Research Fiber Optic Cables & Telephony



Alice Parker

Gas-powered central heating in 1919



**Hedy Lamarr** 

Wireless Transmissions
Technology in 1941



Marie Van Brittan Brown
CCTV in 1969



**Dr. Maria Telkes** 

Residential Solar Heating - 1947



Dr Grace Murray Hopper COBOL – 1959-1961



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## **ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE FOR STEM EDUCATION**

STEM has revolutionalised every aspect of our lives and driven economic growth

The Female Millennial — The
New Era of Talent
Work for companies with
history of inclusion, diversity,
and equality



STEM make up 75% of growing occupations

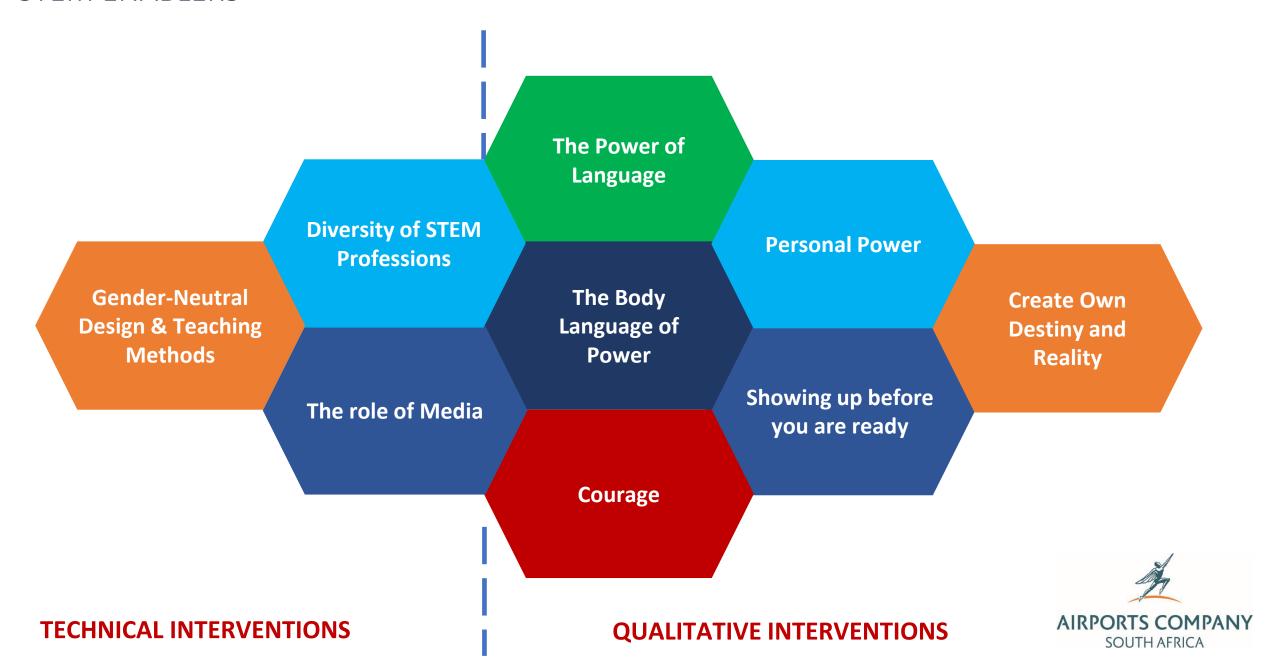
High performing countries are characterised b:

- STEM Literate Population
  - Reliable STEM Pipeline

"As much as \$28 trillion, or 26 percent, could be added to the global GDP by 2025 if women played an identical role in formal labour markets to that of men."



#### STEM ENABLERS



# **Thank You**