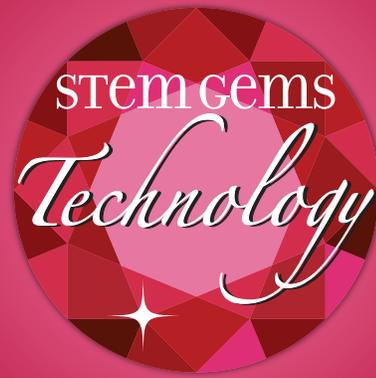## STEM Gem Career:
HEATHER PAYNE

STEM Gem:
COMPUTER CODING CREATOR

"Be extremely ambitious. People should learn to create – not just consume – things on the web. Even if you never actually launch a website, knowing that you can is empowering."

Is a career as a Computer Coding Creator in your future? Are you fascinated with website and app development? Would you love to create your own website or app? STEM Gem Heather Payne loves to code because it allows her the opportunity to shape the future of our country, society, and the technology we use everyday. Consider watching one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

DISCUSS

1. How do Computer Coding Creators like Ms. Payne make a difference in the world?

2. What experiences did Ms. Payne have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Computer Coding Creator?

3. What is Ms. Payne's educational background?

4. What are some of the challenges that Ms. Payne faced along her journey?

5. What are some of Ms. Payne's key accomplishments?

6. What inspired you most about Ms. Payne's story?

7. Ms. Payne says: *"Be extremely ambitious. People should learn o create – not just consume – things on the web. Even if you never actually launch a website, knowing that you can is empowering."* How does her advice resonate with you?

EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as a Computer Coding Creator, what college majors should you consider?

2. What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?

3. What companies hire Computer Coding Creators? What is the salary range for a Computer Coder?

4. Name at least two other women Computer Coding Creators. How are they similar to Ms. Payne? How are they different?

5. Name at least two organizations that offer programs for girls and young women to learn how to code. How can you become a part of these organizations?

REFLECT

Ms. Payne has always squeezed the most out of every opportunity to learn from the people around her. What about you? Do you seize opportunities in your school or community? Once you've made connections, what can you do to continue to learn from the people around you, and take advantage of even more opportunities?

ACT

It's time to step outside your comfort zone. Name one concrete thing you will do before your next meeting that will have you one step closer to becoming a STEM Gem. Blog about it. Include it in your written or photo journal. Hold yourself accountable.

Work hard. Be brave. Stay curious.

BE A GEM!

Stephanie Espy

P.S. I'd love to hear about your journey. Share on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and tag @STEMGemsBook #STEMGemsTribe, or email me at tribe@STEMGemsBook.com.

STEM GEMS™
Giving girls role models.