

# MWM • TX

## Million Women Mentors® – Texas

*Advancing Women and Girls in STEM Careers Through Mentoring*

A movement organized by TxGCP and  
lead organization UTWEP across Texas  
[www.txgcp.org/million-women-mentors](http://www.txgcp.org/million-women-mentors)



The University of Texas at Austin  
Women in Engineering Program  
Cockrell School of Engineering

The 2019 Texas Girls Collaborative Project (TxGCP) Million Women Mentors – Texas (MWM-TX) Stand Up for STEM High School Award recognizes a STEM High School Student or Student Group/Organization engaged in mentoring women and/or girls in STEM. Awardees must demonstrate a passion for encouraging girls and women to pursue a STEM career, embrace available STEM activities and demonstrates leadership in these activities, and inspire others by showing enthusiasm and commitment to pursuing a STEM career.

The 2019 Texas Girls Collaborative Project (TxGCP) Million Women Mentors – Texas (MWM-TX) Stand Up for STEM High School Award is presented to Gouzia Sivarajah from Heritage High School in Frisco ISD.

Gouzia is the founder of SIINNO Technology LLC, a company producing MAVI (Movement Aid for the Visually Impaired). In the summer of 2015, Gouzia Sivarajah was at a park when she saw a blind individual walk into a low hanging tree branch. She was shocked because the blind individual acted like hitting his head was a somewhat normal occurrence. She went home and did some research about technology available to blind individuals. Later on that year she participated in a science fair and decided to create a device that would help blind individuals travel safely and efficiently, and that was how the MAVI was born. She has worked with faculty and students Texas A&M, Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Dallas to develop and advance her product.

When she's not running a technology company, she mentors middle school students in the Frisco ISD Mindbender Academy, a week-long summer camp that encourages participants to explore the world of STEM. Gouzia also founded and serves as president of the Trusted Youth Penny Drive Association raising funds for underprivileged children in Sri Lanka.

One of her nominees shared the impact Gouzia has on others: "When younger students see and hear Gouzia, they give her their undivided attention. Her approach is very simple. She tells those student-- I was where you are just a few years ago. I saw a need. I developed an idea and learned everything I could about bringing an idea to fruition. In addition to sharing her passion about helping blind people and encouraging."

Congratulations to the 2019 Texas Girls Collaborative Project (TxGCP) Million Women Mentors – Texas (MWM-TX) Stand Up for STEM High School Award recipient Gouzia Sivarajah from Heritage High School in Frisco ISD.