



## STEM Education: *Black Panther* Style



By Michael DuBose

Still pleading with students and parents alike to get young African American girls involved with STEM? Here's the latest hook! Introduce them to *Shuri*,



the teen sensation, half-sister of King T'Challa-*The Black Panther*. Not only is she the heiress to the throne of the imaginary *Wakanda*, but her mastery of STEM displayed in *her very own* laboratory is destined to ignite the imagination of young girls everywhere. This movie is a must-see for STEM inspiration!

Shuri was first created in the 2005 comic series *Black Panther vol.4 #2* by writer Reginald Hudlin, who so aptly stated his purpose in an interview with *Vulture*:

*"I wanted everyone who read the book to be empowered. I wanted girls who read the book to feel as empowered as boys. So, I wanted her to be smart and tough and brave and everything you think of as a Black Panther, so that eventually she would be a Black Panther as well. Basically, I wanted a Halloween costume for my son and my daughter."*

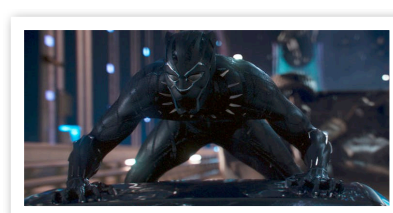
Talk about empowered, strong, and tough! She appears on the big screen 13 years later in the midst of a *real* world that has embraced STEM education as the defining element that will transform underprivileged, underestimated, and undervalued youth into heroes of societies and cultures worldwide.

STEM teen *Shuri's* humorous and unrestrained excitement spills over as she observes her vast array of technological creations successfully operating in *Wakanda*, but also 6,000 miles away in South Korea! What STEM teen (without a driver's license) wouldn't want to

sit in a laboratory miles away, in the seat of the remote-controlled car that *Shuri* built, using hologram



technology to disguise itself as an average car while it is really a highly-advanced vehicle.



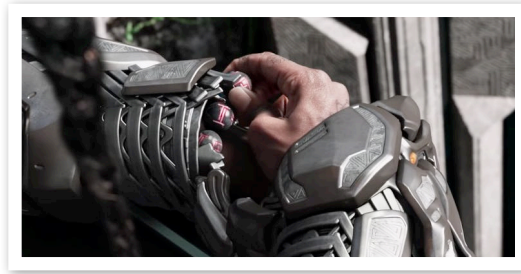
(Oh, and it also comes with Black Panther securely attached to the roof, twisting through the streets of South Korea!)

Teen video game enthusiasts would clamor to use *Shuri's* Vibranium-powered twin blasters, created for herself as she exits her lab and enters the epic battle scene.



If that's not enough, ScreenRant describes a few other STEM creations from *Shuri*:

- Virtual Reality (without the glasses) used in a surgical procedure.
- Wakanda's high-speed rail system that can zoom past Japan's bullet trains.
- Kimoyo beads attached to Hologram bracelets that work like your cell phone with a lot of uses. Nakia, for example, wears beads that can scan a person's vitals, or be used to prevent them bleeding out.



All in all, STEM-inspired girls *and* boys will surely free-fall in love with *Shuri* and hopefully be inspired to have fun while learning, laugh at their failures, and scream with excitement when their ideas make it from their imaginary Wakanda to the real global stage!