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Embracing Her 'Destiny'



Retired LTC Jacqueline Lett, Program Site manager for the Savannah area, and Tachaya Flen (right) work on bringing STEM education to local students.

As a young girl, Technical Services Manager Tachaya Flen was a dreamer who playfully spoke Pig Latin with her friends.

That's why it's fitting that Flen's new nonprofit, in a nod to her younger self, is named EstinyDay. It's focused on giving young people actionable strategies to reach their destiny – and it represents a longstanding dream of Flen's.

"When I was stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, I worked with and mentored young girls in the local community," she said, noting that she was also her battalion's coordinator for a volunteer program that put military members in the classroom to support reading programs. "I saw a real lack of interest from our youth in career opportunities that were available and obtainable. At the same time, the way teens are portrayed on television shows negatively impacts how they see themselves and their futures."



Flen discusses her STEM-focused career with young women hoping to inspire them to seek careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

EstinyDay particularly emphasizes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) – areas where traditionally, female participation has been low. The education-centric organization also includes college preparation skills like SAT and ACT test prep.

Flen said inspiration began for her with a successful career both in the U.S. Army, where she was a Chief Warrant Officer, and on the civilian side, where she currently serves as the program manager for the Army's Command Maintenance Evaluation and Training (COMET) effort with Technical Services.

"I've been blessed with my career," said Flen. "It's enabled me to interact with a great number of inspiring people across the globe and that interaction was pivotal to starting this program – to share that knowledge and experience with today's youth."

Through EstinyDay, Flen connects participants in the program with professionals from all over the United States and the world. The idea is to enable the sharing of life experiences that propelled them to success. In May, the program launched publicly with the adoption of its first school.

“Bringing this from a vision to reality was a humbling experience,” said Flen. “I’m hoping we can get more speakers from Lockheed Martin to talk about their experiences making a career in technology and engineering.”

Volunteers for EstinyDay include both retired and active duty military members as well as civilian professionals. Volunteers don’t need to be local, said Flen, noting that the advent of technologies like Skype make it possible for virtual volunteers to make real contributions to the students.

Employees interested in sharing their career experiences in science, technology, engineering and math can contact Tachaya Flen at tachaya.d.flen@lmco.com.