

**Tracie Dean Ponder** is youngest of 11 children born and raised in the inner city of Chicago, Illinois. Her mother was an uncompromising advocate for education. It's her passion that has ignited the spark that set Tracie on her path. With an ardent commitment for educating and empowering emerging talent she founded B~STEM Project and B~STEM Project Foundation (B~STEM). The organization's primary goal is to create opportunities for young girls and women to engage, learn and grow around business and STEM disciplines across industries.

BSTEM also provides extension programming for both boys and girls through strategic partnerships with organizations, academia and corporations. Tracie is driven by the vision that B~STEM will become a gateway to unlimited possibilities. The organization is committed to providing foundational support to help foster awareness, aspiration and innovation. Tracie is also the founder of Genius In Motion (GIM), which focuses on promoting diversity in television, film and media. She's an advocate for issues relating to diversity and inclusion particularly when it comes to race, culture and gender. GIM's mission is to open the pathways of dialogue, to bring a spotlight to talent of color, to become a bridge for opportunity and to cultivate the next generation of diverse talent in the entertainment industry. Tracie is an award-winning entertainment veteran having worked as a writer, director and producer independently and for companies such as Warner Brothers, Lifetime, Harpo Studios, Fox Sports and BET. She received a B.A. from New York University, M.A. from De Paul University and a Certificate in Film, Television, Video and New Media from UCLA. Tracie has also had the unique opportunity to study abroad and travel to places that include: Barbados, Senegal, Morocco, Spain, France and Greece. She's relentless when it comes to sharing her wealth of knowledge and helping others to achieve their highest growth potential. For more information about B~STEM Project visit [www.bstemproject.org](http://www.bstemproject.org)