



Keli Christopher, Ph.D. is currently the Executive Director of the STEM Greenhouse, an organization committed to preparing vulnerable children for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The STEM Greenhouse specializes in fun and hands-on STEM programs for students in kindergarten to 12th grades. The STEM Greenhouse received the 2019 Showcase Afterschool Site Award from the Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Network for excellence in afterschool programming.

Dr. Christopher was educated in Grand Rapids Public Schools and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School. After graduating from North Carolina A&T State University, she pursued both masters and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She became the first black person to receive a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois and the third black woman in the world to receive a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Christopher has worked as an engineer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Program, and the Kent County Conservation District. Dr. Christopher founded STEM Greenhouse in 2014. She has served as the National President of Alpha Epsilon Honor Society for Agricultural Engineers and was in the 2015 class of the Grand Rapids Business Journal's 40 Under Forty. She is also a finalist for a West Michigan Women's Magazine Brilliance Award in the Social Change Agent category. Through her nonprofit, she has partnered with several community foundations, Kentwood Public Library and Camp Blodgett. Dr. Christopher is widowed and has two children.