

Ramya is an Indian American immigrant and grew up in the greater Boston area. A Presidential scholar, she graduated from Boston University with degrees in political science and mathematics. She served in the student government, founded a committee to advocate for student mental health needs, and volunteered at local middle schools teaching a civics & advocacy curriculum. Ramya relocated to Appalachian Eastern Kentucky to better understand the diversity of inequities that students face and help fill a shortage of high school math teachers.

As a National Science Foundation Fellow in the Research Experience for Teachers program, Ramya studied how best to implement STEM experiences within a standards-based math curriculum. She was awarded the Early Career STEM Educator award and served in multiple leadership positions in her district, including Board Member of Teach for America Appalachia. Ramya received a Fulbright Scholarship to study for an MA in Social Justice and Education at the Institute of Education in London, UK. Currently, she serves as an Assistant Principal at Academy of the Pacific Rim Public Charter.

A lifelong lover of sharks & marine science, Ramya looks forward to using the funds from the Pat Cooke Fellowship to deepen her understanding and appreciation of shark science and conservation. She looks forward to bringing this experience back to her school as a mini-unit on shark anatomy and conservation to raise awareness about the importance of marine conservation and encourage more students to pursue a career in conservation.