



Congresswoman Robin Kelly to address future innovators at Homewood Science Center’s “Girls STEAM Ahead”

Press Release

For immediate release:

Homewood, IL Saturday February 25th, 2017 11am-2:30pm

“Girls STEAM Ahead”

An upcoming event presented by Homewood Science Center aims at encouraging girls to consider careers in scientific, technical, and artistic fields. “Girls STEAM Ahead” connects female thought leaders who work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, or “STEAM,” sectors with area girls in a roundtable luncheon discussion at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor, Illinois on Saturday, February 25 from 11 AM to 2:30 PM.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly, who represents Illinois’ 2nd Congressional District, is among the group of 35 professional women who will take part in this empowering afternoon. The group of women represent a diverse spectrum of STEAM careers including backgrounds in marine biology, medicine, environmental engineering, film production, broadcasting, clinical psychology, ecology, and education.

The 93 participants in 7th-12th grade selected for “Girls STEAM Ahead” are from south Chicago-area suburbs including Burbank, Chicago Heights, Country Club Hills, Flossmoor, Glenwood, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Lynwood, Matteson, Mokena, Park Forest, Richton Park, and University Park.

“These girls and their interest in STEAM caught our attention. We want to see girls from Chicago’s Southland succeed in STEAM by connecting them with accomplished female experts across a wide variety of disciplines,” explains Edie Dobrez, Executive Director of Homewood Science Center.

Groups from Brookwood Junior High, HF Robotics, James Hart STEM Lab, and School District 170 STEM Academy will present their STEAM initiatives followed by a keynote address by Congresswoman Kelly. “We are happy to have support from such a prominent female elected official. We hope her enthusiasm for STEAM will be another push in the right direction for our participating girls,” states Dobrez.

Laura J. Cruz, PMP of “Girls STEAM Ahead” sponsor Schneider Electric, played a major role in conceptualizing the event. Cruz became involved with Homewood Science Center through the South Suburban STEM Network, an initiative to strengthen STEM connections throughout Chicago’s Southland. Cruz will conduct a panel, giving girls the chance to get their questions answered about STEAM careers.

“Girls STEAM Ahead” will be held on Saturday February 25th at Idlewild Country Club. Sponsors include Exelon and Schneider Electric, with in-kind donations provided by Homewood Florist and TGS Video Productions. For more information, please visit the Homewood Science Center’s website www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/gsa.