



Homewood Science Center
18022 Dixie Highway | Homewood, IL 60430
www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/gsa

Thursday January 24th, 2019

For immediate release

Homewood Science Center presents “Girls STEAM Ahead”, an initiative of the South Suburban STEAM Network, brought to you by Schneider Electric on Saturday March 2nd, 2019 from 11am-3pm at Idlewild Country Club, 19201 Dixie Highway in Flossmoor, IL. Registration for student and professional attendees is available until February 11th by going to www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/gsa.

In its third year, this free luncheon connects 7th-12th grade female students from across Chicago’s culturally and economically diverse south suburbs and Northwest Indiana with women in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) careers and education. Throughout the event, students will practice networking, expressing their interests in STEAM and self-reflecting on their goals with the support of an experienced generation of female thought leaders in STEAM.

“Girls STEAM Ahead is designed to support young women who have traditionally been underrepresented in STEAM education and careers, so they will persist in their goals,” explains Homewood Science Center’s executive director, Edie Dobrez. Long-term gender inequities often seen in STEAM professions will be impacted as female students benefit from having access to accomplished female experts across a wide variety of disciplines. The majority of students registered have limited access to female mentors in STEAM. Professional participants are eager to help girls excel in STEAM and most offer to continue mentoring the students through ongoing support or by sharing internship and volunteer opportunities.

The event begins by highlighting professional projects by women from diverse backgrounds in STEAM. Girls will gain exposure to STEAM career choices and meet potential mentors. VP of Marketing for the U.S. Power division of Schneider Electric, Vicki Repsholdt will deliver the keynote address. Guided by the “Girls STEAM Ahead 2019” theme Major Decisions, Repsholdt will share her story, detailing vital decisions throughout her young adulthood that eventually led to her success, encouraging female students to pursue STEAM education and careers. Participants will enjoy a hands-on engineering design challenge led by the Women in Schneider Electric (WiSE) group. Later in the afternoon, students can pose their questions to a panel highlighting mentor/mentee relationships, and finally, through guided discussion, students will think about how the decisions they make today will affect their future.

“Girls STEAM Ahead” is a free event thanks to support from Schneider Electric. Enbridge is providing lunch for the group of 150 student and 100 professional attendees. In addition, Gallagher Asphalt is providing the technology needed to power the event and transportation sponsors Flossmoor Service League and Grant Orthodontics are helping students from low-income school districts attend the event. To register for or learn more about Girls STEAM Ahead, please go to www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/gsa

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