

# AAUW Encouraging Tech Education

The American Association of University Women applauds the latest move by the federal government to make it easier for women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. AAUW has a special interest in this issue, as it prepares to take its successful regional STEM programming nationwide to encourage women and girls to enter these careers.

In recognition of AAUW's contributions to research and grassroots advocacy in promoting women's increased participation in STEM, the White House invited AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, and AAUW President Carolyn Garfein to attend Monday's announcement of the National Science Foundation's 10-year plan to increase workplace flexibility in the STEM fields. The event, in the East Room of the White House, featured First Lady Michelle Obama and NSF Director Subra Suresh.

AAUW's 2010 research report, *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,*

provides compelling evidence of the environmental and social barriers that continue to limit women's participation and progress in those fields. This report sparked AAUW's renewed commitment to building successful local programs to attract girls and women to STEM fields.

Currently, AAUW branches run many STEM education programs throughout the country, encouraging thousands of girls to consider a future in STEM. Next year, AAUW will partner with major corporations, government entities, and organizations currently participating in national STEM education coalitions to develop more STEM programs nationwide. These programs will be focused not only on students but also on the adults who can positively influence girls' career decisions. Additionally, in 2012 AAUW will release new research on the role of community colleges in educating students for STEM careers.

Locally the St. Lawrence County Branch funds summer

programs for local students to attend STEM enrichment activities through its Open Windows for Girls program. Since 1989, the branch has been offering camperships to girls to attend science-related camps. Two girls attended Camp Invention at SUNY Canton this summer, and others attended the Clarkson Horizons Program.

Membership in the St. Lawrence County Branch is open to anyone who supports the mission of AAUW. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW's commitment to educational equity is reflected in its public policy advocacy, community programs, leadership development, conventions and conferences, national partnerships, and international connections.

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