



NEWS RELEASE

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AAUW Westchester Branch Invites Community to Panel Discussion

Parents, Teachers and Others Discuss Means of Supporting Girls in Math, Science and Technology

Westchester County — To help parents and teachers combat middle school girls distancing themselves from math, science and technology courses, American Association of University Women (AAUW) Westchester Branch, will be holding a panel discussion. The meeting will be held at the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla on October 5 at 6:00 pm and is open to the public.

After a screening of *Tech Savvy Girls*, a short video hosted by Dr. Mae Jemison, president of the Jemison Group and former NASA astronaut (space shuttle Endeavor, 1992), participants will learn how to identify the patterns and situations that girls face and discuss intervention strategies.

Too many girls are leaving school unprepared for the high tech workplace they will soon enter. Studies have revealed that gender differences in attitudes and interest in science are present by the end of the elementary grades (Jones, Howe, & Rua, 2000). During middle school, the gap in boys' and girls' interest in science appears to grow (Jones, Mullis, Raizen, Weiss, & Weston, 1992; Catsambis, 1995). According to the National Science Foundation (2003b), less than 14 percent of electrical and mechanical engineering students are female.

Panelist will be area educators and parents. The town-hall type meeting is a reprise of a portion of their well-received Expanding Your Horizons™ conference for 7th-grade girls, held the last two years in partnership with AAUW New York City Branch and Barnard College.

The conference hosts 150 girls and 50 adults. Girls participate in two hands-on workshops led by women professionals from science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Adults participate in their own hands on workshop following the panel discussion. This year's conference is set for March 11.

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The American Association of University Women, with its nationwide network of more than 100,000 bipartisan members and 1,300 branches, has been a leading advocate for equity for women and girls since 1881.

AAUW: Because Equity is Still An Issue