Idaho WIN’s “My Amazing Future” Program

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Motivation for Program

- Focus on STEM Workforce Development
- Provide Girls Exposure to the Wide Variety of STEM topics
- Increase Potential for Girls’, Women’s Economic Opportunities
- Show Female Technical Competence and Leadership – Role models for girls deciding career paths
- Sustainability for Idaho’s Technology Foundation
- Focus on Eighth Graders – Before high school curriculum is developed
- Background Research on Education Supports the Need for Similar Programs – All agree that women are underrepresented in STEM careers

History of Program

- 2006 - Initiated as part of College of Southern Idaho “Girls in Technology” program
- 2015 – Not Part of ‘Girls in Technology,’ but an independent program
- 150 girls from 9 schools, 17 workshops, 15 community presenters and sponsors, still IWIN leadership

2015 Workshops

- 3-D Symmetry and Geometry
- Arrive Alive to Your Amazing Future
- Dancing Craisins and Other Science Magic Tricks
- Experiment with a Chemist
- DNA Isolation from Strawberries
- Human Factors: Using Psychology to Improve Nuclear Power Plant Control Rooms
- Nuclear Space Batteries
- Nuclear Forensics and Radiochemistry
- Our Amazing Aquifer: Protecting Our Most Precious Resource
- Our Amazing Bodies: Continued Use When Hip Joints Wear Out
- Our Amazing Robots: Shaping the Future with Your Imagination
- Our Amazing Technology: Protecting Our Data
- Phenomenal Physics
- Radiation and Life
- Rainbow Density Drink and Magic Colored Milk
- Science of Energy
- Wave your Wand in a Cave

Planning Considerations

- Need Event Organizing Committee
- Obtaining Space in Facilities to Host Workshops
- Laboratories – Safety briefings
- Conference Rooms
- Outside or Inside?
- Transportation for students?
- Food and Drinks - Need to host breaks, lunch
- Printed Program?
- Handouts/Giveaways?
- Seek Feedback – Ask during the day, not afterward

Feedback

- “All the girls expressed enthusiasm and interest, and a desire to keep taking science and other classes that would prepare them for STEM careers.”
- “All of this engineering stuff is really cool. It’s really changing my mind about what I want to do. I like doing things with my hands and I’ve learned a lot about what kind of careers are out there.”
- “I didn’t think about a STEM career before I attended My Amazing Future at INL. Now I want to be a Mechanical Engineer.”

References


https://youtu.be/-VVXFWk8P4o

2015 Sponsors

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