

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Appleton and Oshkosh Branches to Host Dynamic Math and Science Program for Girls**

**on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at UW-Fox Valley**

UW-Fox Valley in Menasha— Although women hold close to half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold less than 25 percent of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) jobs. Appleton and Oshkosh Branches in Wisconsin are one of 23 AAUW National Tech Savvy sites working to improve those numbers.

Appleton and Oshkosh Branches will host an AAUW National Tech Savvy program, a daylong event designed to show girls firsthand how STEM fields can lead to exciting careers on Saturday. The conference, part of the AAUW National Tech Savvy Pilot Program will welcome 250 girls in grades six through nine and their parents to UW-Fox Valley.

Girls saw the day as FUN!, interactive, and a pretty cool experience to learn about STEM careers. Some favorite hands on STEM workshops were Dark Matter, Earth Secrets, and Bioluminescent. Parents attending said their daughters had their eyes open to possibilities and how to aim higher. The conference is more than hands on exciting opportunities with women in STEM careers because it takes more than an interest so included in the day are college and girl-empowering workshops. One girl’s reflection on the College Savvy workshop,” I really enjoyed getting the information I needed to know to apply for college and about what careers are good for me. Having a chance to communicate with college recruiters was amazing.” Another commented when leaving, “I used my notebook and pen a lot.”

AAUW’s Tech Savvy and similar programs offer one way to increase the number of women in the STEM pipeline. Recommendations and suggestions for how institutions and employers can foster more women in these fields, particularly in the lucrative engineering and tech jobs, appear in AAUW’s research report [*Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women’s Success in Engineering and Computing*](http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/).

“This is an exciting time for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” said Ana Kay Yaghoubian, STEM senior manager at AAUW. “What’s great about Tech Savvy is that it’s a family affair. Parents take part in the conference because they are an important part of the solution. We want moms, dads, and other supportive family members to encourage girls to pursue their STEM passions because too many girlsstill get the messagethat those fields aren’t for them.”

Created in 2006 by Tamara Brown, former president of the AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch, Tech Savvy has since served more than 5,000 girls. As a result of her work, Brown was honored as a White House [Champion of Change](http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions/girls-and-women-in-stem/tamara-e.-brown).

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The American Association of University Women (AAUW) empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university partners. Since AAUW’s founding in 1881, our members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. Learn more and join us at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org/).