



### **Middle School Girls are Inspired at “Engineering Your Tomorrow”**

At the close of National Engineers Week in February, nearly 100 enthusiastic middle school girls from 30 different schools gathered at Conrad Schools of Science for a day dedicated to exploring the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This empowering event, organized by Million Women Mentors – Delaware, showcased the dedication and talents of a diverse group of local STEM professionals who came together to inspire the next generation. With generous sponsorship from DuPont, Ashland, Incyte, Croda, FMC, Hologic, and the Delaware Afterschool Network (DEAN) along with additional support, donations and volunteers from Agilent, ChristianaCare, Goldey-Beacom College, Walmart, the Delaware Foundation for Science & Math Education (DFSME), Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids, Four Youth Productions, and the University of Delaware Graduate Scientistas and Project Brain Light groups, the event was truly a community effort.

Encouraging words from former Delaware Governor and Million Women Mentors Honorary Co-Chair Bethany Hall-Long, and Odessa High School senior and STEM Next Flight Crew member Alyssa Bush, set the tone for an unforgettable day. The girls engaged in hands-on lab activities led by predominantly female engineers and scientists, creating an inclusive and dynamic learning environment that sparked curiosity and creativity.

The students were given an engineering challenge where they designed and built doghouses to shelter a (toy) puppy from the heat. Through this interactive experience, they learned about the

concepts of light and heat—exploring energy transfer, absorption, insulation, and the unique properties of different materials. The culmination of their hard work came when they tested their doghouses under heat lamps in a friendly competition where prizes were awarded for “Best in Show” and “Coolest Canine Castle” among others. Volunteers were amazed by the remarkable creativity and ingenuity of the designs!



Additionally, the girls had the opportunity to extract DNA from strawberries, create colorful artwork with pipettes, build homopolar motors, and visit interactive demos by our generous sponsors.

As the girls engaged in their activities, parents and chaperones had the invaluable opportunity to connect with representatives from organizations such as Science Olympiad, the Delaware Technology Student Association, Agilent, DuPont, DeIDOT, and the University of Delaware. The panelists shared insights and offered guidance on how to best support the girls' interest in STEM, covering topics from academic and career choices to selecting enriching extracurricular activities. The day culminated in an exciting demonstration by the Dynamic Systems drone team.

“Engineering Your Tomorrow” was not just an educational experience; it was a celebration of curiosity, creativity, and discovery, led by a supportive community to encourage young girls to pursue their passions in science, engineering and technology.

### **About Million Women Mentors – Delaware**

Million Women Mentors is the premier network dedicated to encouraging girls and women to pursue, persist and thrive in STEM careers.

Join us in supporting initiatives like "Engineering Your Tomorrow" and help empower more young women to succeed in the world of STEM—because together, we can engineer a brighter future!

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Event Highlights:



