

**REGISTRATION OPEN FOR “WOMEN IN STEM” CAREER CONFERENCE
IN MARCH FOR NORTH STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS AT SIMPSON UNIVERSITY**

LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE: March 9!

Redding, CA – February 16, 2018 -- On March 17, 2018 at Simpson University, 350+ middle school girls and some parents/teachers will travel from schools in 11 North State counties to learn about rapidly growing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at the 14th AAUW Women in STEM Conference for 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Girls” in the North State.

The event, which features interactive career workshops by 25+ local professional women in STEM careers, is designed to motivate North State girls to be innovative thinkers, and to educate and empower them to become the next generation in these career fields. (in which women are currently underrepresented). Career workshop topics include civil and quality engineering, aviation, coding, medical imaging, nursing, fish and wildlife biology, crime scene technology, dentistry and veterinary medicine. College Options will also be providing a workshop and information on how to find the right college for various careers, as well as scholarship and financial aid information.

Registration is limited and the sessions are filling up fast. **THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS MARCH 9.** Those interested should register at <http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/AAUWReddingSTEM/>. The conference fee is only \$20 per student, and \$20 per teacher or parent who attends with the students. Students get to sign up for 4 different workshops at the time of registration. More information on the conference can be found on AAUW Redding’s website at www.aauwredding.org.

The conference is a collaborative effort, co-sponsored by the **American Association of University Women (AAUW) Redding, CA Branch; Simpson University; the Shasta County Office of Education and Expanding Your Horizons.**

Note to Media/Press: Please focus on the registration deadline of March 9 rather than the conference date of March 17. Thank you for your help with communicating this valuable event to our community.

Background on the Nationwide Effort to Help Prepare Girls for Future Jobs in STEM Careers

Our nation is committed to a globally competitive STEM workforce to fulfill projected job and economic growth in these areas. This requires a sustained effort focused on students and educators in STEM disciplines. According to the US Dept. of Commerce, STEM related jobs are growing at 17 percent and in California alone there is a projected need for a STEM workforce in 2018 of approximately 1.14 million. During the next 10 years, over 70% of the predicted jobs in California will be related to STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math (*Shasta County Office of Education – North State STEM*, 2009; www.shastacoe.org/page.cfm?p=7057). When women are not well represented in these fields, they lose out on these high-quality job opportunities. (*AAUW (national organization – Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women’s Success in Engineering and Computing*, 2015; www.aauw.org/files/2015/04/Solving-the-Equation-executive-summary-nsa.pdf).

AAUW Redding Branch

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Nationally, with more than 100,000 members, **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** has a long and distinguished history (133 years) of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. Established in 1942, the Redding Branch has served Northern California for more than 70 years. A key goal of the Redding organization is to foster educational opportunities for local women. In support of this goal, AAUW Redding provides college scholarships to local women; sends local middle school girls to Tech Trek – a weeklong technology camp at UC Davis; and hosts a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) conference for junior high girls, Women in STEM Conference. For more information on AAUW, go to www.aauwredding.org.

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