

## EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY BRANCH

# THE COUNTY LINE



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### AAUW Value Statement

By joining AAUW we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

### Mission & Diversity Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.



Dear Ladies,

As all of you know, AAUW has a long history of opening doors for women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from the classroom to Capitol Hill. STEM fields are rapidly becoming the most in-demand and lucrative in the world. However, despite this demand, at every step of the STEM education women and girls walk away. Women who do graduate with a STEM degree enter a work force that is historically unfriendly to them—by gender bias, hostile work or academic environments and/or by blocking participation and advancement.

In the past two years, our branch has become involved in STEM opportunities for girls to help eradicate the bias associated with women in STEM. Through our collaboration with Delaware County Community College and their Women in STEM program we developed the STEM Scholar Recognition event. On May 3, 2017 at DCCC STEM auditorium, we celebrated 15 freshman girls, one from each of the Delaware County's public high schools, that excelled in science, technology, engineering, and/or math and expressed an interest in a STEM career. The enthusiasm and positive feedback we received from the girls, parents and educators that attended the event convinced us that this was a project our branch should continue and on May 4, 2018 we celebrated our second group of STEM-minded freshman girls.

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The excitement about STEM initiatives intensified in our branch and DCCC. This eagerness led to the creation of the STEM Scholar Academy where the girls who were recognized could come together and learn from and network with professional women who worked in STEM fields.

On Saturday, November 10, 2018 we held our first STEM Scholar Academy. The girls attending had three one-hour workshops to choose from: **Investigating Muscle Contraction** presented by Dr. Naomi Mitchell, Associate Professor of Biology; **BLASTING into the Past**, presented by Professor Sandra Devenny, Associate Professor of Biology; **Rainbow Colors**, presented by Dr. Ernestina Luna, Associate Professor of Chemistry. While the girls were participating in the workshops, their parents were participating in presentations about pursuing STEM careers and higher education. Presenters for this part of the workshop were: Darren Lipscomb, Director of Admissions & Enrollment Services, DCCC; Ray Toole, Director of Financial Aid, DCCC; Dot McLane, former AAUW Pennsylvania President; and Anne Mosakowski, Instructional Technology Specialist and member of AAUW Eastern Delaware County. At the close of the workshops there was a Women in STEM Career Panel for both the girls and their parents. The panel consisted of: Prof. Sandra Devenny, Dr. Ernestina Luna, Shilpa Mishra, recipient of the National Science Foundation Scholarship in STEM and student at DCCC, and lastly, Dot McLane, former president of AAUW Pennsylvania. The STEM Academy was attended by nine girls, five from 2017, four from 2018 and all had a parent or family representative with them. Even though, the number of attendees was low, the overall consensus of those in attendance felt the STEM Academy was a success and our efforts were lauded in the evaluation forms that everyone filled out. We will continue the STEM Academy in 2019 but with an invitation extended to a friend of each honored girl who is interested in a STEM career. It should be added that Boeing has shown an interest in our endeavors with STEM and girls. They have offered a monetary sponsorship to AAUW Eastern Delaware County to continue our work with girls in STEM.



On **Wednesday, April 3, 2019** we will holding our annual Junior Girls Recognition Awards. This year we are honored to have **Honorable Jennifer O'Mara**, Pennsylvania House of Representation of District 165. She will be speaking to the girls, their families, educators and our members about her community service and her journey as a woman in today's political scene. This should be a very exciting night for all who attend. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this celebratory evening.