

Great Science for Girls



Great Science for Girls, a five-year initiative of the Educational Equity Center at AED, with funding from the National Science Foundation.

Great Science for Girls: Extension Services for Gender Equity in Science through After-School Programs (GSG) works with intermediaries to build the capacity of after-school centers to deliver evidence-based programs that will broaden and sustain girls' interest and persistent in STEM. Intermediaries are organizations that provide training and technical assistance to networks of afterschool centers in their regions.

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HOLD THE DATES

APRIL 8, 2010

Next quarterly all-site
webinar

APRIL 21—22, 2010

GSG All-Partners Institute

Join Our Mailing List!

ANNOUNCING THE GSG LISTSERV

We encourage you to actively participate in this “community of practice” and involve your colleagues in this exchange. **To join send an email to: gsg@listserv.aed.org** and indicate “join GSG.”

LOOKING FOR NEW PARTNERS

To identify new GSG partners, we have developed a Request for Applications (RFA) and are encouraging intermediaries, direct service providers operating multiple afterschool programs, school districts, and other organizations to apply. For more information and to view the RFA solicitation, please visit the GSG website: www.edequity.org/gsg/

GSG also continues to identify evidence-based curriculum partners. Please let us know if you come across, or have produced curriculum with a formal evaluation report that indicates a positive impact on girls' STEM learning.

GSG NEWS

GSG All-Partners Institute in Washington, DC – April 21-22, 2010

GSG is hosting a special, invitation-only, meeting to bring together Intermediary and curriculum partners and advisory committee members. The meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. from April 21-22 at the Hilton Washington Hotel and at the AED Conference Center. Participants will be able to meet with colleagues, ask questions, share expertise, hear from the GSG project team, and help us plan for the future of the GSG project. For more information contact Amy Weng at aweng@aed.org.

Quarterly TA Meetings for Intermediary Sites a Success

The all-site webinars held on October 8th and January 14th provided a great opportunity for GSG colleagues from around the U.S. to meet and share ideas. The open microphone session was a particular success for a discussion of questions and answers about how to continue to build capacity of afterschool centers to deliver programming that broadens and sustain girls' interest in STEM. For a copy of the Q/A from the Intermediary TA meetings, request them through the GSG Listserv or email Amy Weng at aweng@aed.org.

Branding GSG

We hope everyone has hung up their GSG poster to let people know that your agency or center is part of the GSG national initiative to bring more girls into Twenty-First Century STEM-related jobs and careers. If you haven't received your poster, or you need more, please contact Amy Weng at aweng@aed.org.



INTERMEDIARIES SPOTLIGHT

Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will highlight the work of one of the GSG Intermediaries. This month we are pleased to feature The After-School Institute (TASI) in Baltimore, Maryland. www.afterschoolinstitute.org

Currently, about 20 sites in Baltimore City and Montgomery County are participating in GSG – some for the second year in a row. Together, these programs are bringing science to more than 500 students, and TASI has taken after-school science to the next level:

1. Involving mentors and volunteers:

Programs have the opportunity to work with volunteer “STEM Mentors” from organizations and institutions such as the Baltimore County Police, Johns Hopkins University, Morgan State University, US Army, and local engineering firms.

One site has a group of graduate students come every week to lead After-School Science PLUS activities, as well as activities they created themselves. They even applied for a small student grant to purchase needed supplies! Another site has invited multiple volunteers to come in during different weeks and give presentations about their current jobs, what sort of courses they took in college, etc.

2. Building on local training opportunities that can help support GSG:

TASI is working with the local 4H extension service to bring Wonderwise training to the GSG sites. The Hubble Space Telescope Center is offering free trainings and workshops, which are being advertised to the GSG sites. And the information for the Afterschool Universe curriculum training was made available to the GSG sites as a suggestion for middle school programming, thanks to the proximity of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where Afterschool Universe is housed.

For more information about TASI or GSG in Baltimore, contact Rebekah Lin at rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org.

RESEARCH ROUND-UP

Supporting Student Outcomes through Expanded Learning Opportunities

This report, released by The Harvard Family Research Project in January 2009, summarizes the benefits of afterschool and summer learning programs, why schools should partner with these types of programs, and key principles for sustainable partnerships between schools and afterschool/summer learning programs. The benefits of participating in afterschool/summer learning programs are illustrated

in three studies: *Evaluation of Enhanced Academic Instruction in Afterschool Programs*, *Study of Promising After-School Programs*, and *21st Century Community Learning Centers Program National Study*. These studies showed that participation in afterschool/summer learning programs can result in the following: *less disciplinary action; lower dropout rates; better academic performance in school (grades and test scores); greater on-time promotion; improved homework completion and improved work habits*.

Citation: Little, P. (2009). *Supporting Student Outcomes Through Expanded Learning Opportunities*. Harvard Family Research Project. Cambridge, MA. <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/supporting-student-outcomes-through-expanded-learning-opportunities>

RESOURCES

GREAT VIDEOS

Four short, engaging videos are a great training resource and demonstrate how “cool” science can be. They are produced by The After School Corporation (TASC), a GSG Intermediary, and feature activities from After-School Science PLUS. The videos, *Who Does Science?*, *Oobleck*, *Science Training for After-School Educators* and *Why Do Science After-School?*, can be viewed from the TASC e-newsletter or website at http://www.tascorp.org/section/resources/articles/science_2010.

FOCUS ON CAREERS

Girls Communicating Career Connections (GC3)

<http://gc3.edc.org>.

GC3 is a youth-produced, video series with downloadable companion educator materials on science and engineering careers, developed *by* and *for* middle school aged girls. The GC3 videos share career information, highlight 21st century skill development, and focus on the positive social impact of science and engineering careers. Materials include an Educator’s Guide, with suggested uses for the videos in both formal and informal settings, and a Video Production Curriculum, which aids educators in creating videos of their own. GC3 is a project of Education Development Center, Inc., and funded by the National Science Foundation’s *Research on Gender in Science and Engineering* program.

The Funworks... for Careers You Never Knew Existed

<http://thefunworks.edc.org/SPT--homeflash.php>

A website for girls, developed by the Educational Development Center, Inc., features a collection of STEM career exploration resources. The site helps girls in middle school (ages 11–15, grades 6–9) think about what they enjoy and how to connect those interests to STEM jobs that they may not have thought about before. A short quiz and a link to careers that use math and science provide links to resources for pursuing these interests.

For more information, contact:

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