

***EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES-THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!  
CONFERENCE 2011***



On Saturday, March 19, 2011, 228 seventh grade girls attended the Seventh Annual “Explore Your Opportunities-the Sky’s the Limit!” (EYO) conference at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. The conference was sponsored by the New York, Westchester and Manhattan branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The purpose of the conference is to encourage girls to continue on into the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The participants were from Westchester and New York City middle schools. The conference opened with a key note speaker, Ms. Lindsay Lindstrom, a dynamic Academic Evangelist from Microsoft Corporation. The girls each had two hands-on workshops conducted by women in the STEM fields. This year’s workshops included “Brain Games”, taught by Dr. Jenny Libien who showed the girls the intricacies of Alzheimer’s disease, a disease of the brain that affects more women than men. Some girls participated in workshops with the teams of chemist from Estee Lauder in “Hands-on Cosmetic Chemistry” while others were learning about “Web Design” and what “Tomorrow’s Nurse” will be doing. Not only did the girls learn new techniques but the 52 parents and educators learned a new way to help their daughter with geometry in an origami workshop conducted by Karen Wellington, a New York City public school math coach. The students played the Mystery Woman game throughout the day, identifying women in fields of finance, architecture, engineering and science.

AAUW partnered with The College of Mount Saint Vincent. The college provided the EYO conference with their beautiful campus, laboratories and classrooms. Dr. James Fabrizio, Director of the Division of Natural Sciences at the college spoke with parents about preparation and expectation of for the girls on their road to college. There were over 100 volunteers including workshop leaders, classroom assistants, mystery woman and those who kept the conference moving smoothly. These volunteers are promoting the cause of the college and AAUW *to promote equity for women and girls through education*. The EYO Conference has touched the lives of over 1,100 girls in the pass eight years of its existence. It has exposed the girls and their parents to parts of the STEM fields that they may have otherwise not known about. Reactions from participants have been so positive that EYO Co-Directors Wilma Gitchel and Lorrin Johnson, both AAUW members, are already preparing for the 2012 conference at the College of Mount Saint Vincent.