

## INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/ PROGRAM/ EVENT:

**Note: Any program since last year's deadline is eligible.**

**Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.) - Women Education**  Community  International  Cultural  Diversity  Public Policy

**Title:** AAUW High School STEM Engineers' Conference

Part I:

**Other community groups** involved, if any (list):(5 points) Rockland County New York State Society of Professional Engineers, AAUW, Rockland Teachers' Center Institute, Retired Senior Volunteers Program, Rockland BOCES, and the East Ramapo, Clarkstown, Nanuet, North Rockland, Nyack, South Orangetown Suffern School Districts.

**Number of members involved in planning or putting on** the program (5 points) 14 members of the STEM committee

**Number of nonmembers involved** in the program (5 points) Eight engineers on planning and execution of meeting; 5 additional engineers on panel; and 4 members of Retired Senior Volunteer Program, 2 members of Rockland Teachers Center Institute

**Number of members who attended or benefitted** (5 points) 6

**Number of nonmembers** who attended or benefitted (5 points) 69 (students plus engineers and Hon. Ellen Jaffee)

**Number of new members** who joined (if any)(5 points).....

Part II: See Attached

**Describe** your project/ program/ event in 75-150 **words**. Be sure to include:

how the project addressed **AAUW's mission** (15 points)

**branch goals** in doing this program (10 points)

**specific action steps** in planning this program (15 points)

steps taken for **community visibility** (Attach newsletter and newspaper articles.)(10 points) Z

**measurable impact on the community** (10 points)

**lessons learned** for future programs/ projects/ events (10 points)

## **ENGINEERS' PROJECT 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY APPLICATION, PART II**

### **Purpose:**

To promote equity for girls by exposing them to careers and role models in engineering and the path to becoming an engineer. We requested that each school send two students – one a girl, one a junior. Half of the Question-and-Answer Panel of engineers consisted of female engineers.

### **Action Steps:**

1. We developed a partnership with the Rockland County Branch of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers
2. Established common/complementary goals.
3. Planned a program
4. Secured the cooperation of the Rockland County School Superintendents.

**Publicity:** See attached from December issue FACETS, branch newsletter

### **Impact on community:**

1. We greatly increased the exposure of the Rockland Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers' scholarships.
2. Increased access to female role models in the field of engineering.
3. Focused appeal to girls.
4. Positive reaction. (see attached Evaluation Analysis)

### **Lessons Learned:**

It would be well if we opened the program to 10<sup>th</sup> graders also. And in the future we need to organize more publicity for the event.

## **FAMILY READING NIGHT AT SUMMIT PARK HONORS ROCKLAND'S VETERANS**

The event was co-sponsored by AAUW's *STEM at Summit Park Initiative* and the Summit Park PTA.

Family Reading Night, Tuesday, November 9, 2010, honored Rockland's Veteran Heroes at Summit Park Elementary School. Over 200 parents and children came to hear veterans from Rockland County read stories about the history of Veterans Day and the many wars in which Americans fought that are celebrated on that day. The celebrity reader was **Maureen Morgan**, the 2010 **Veteran of the Year** and the first female veteran to be so honored. She read the book "The Wall," the story of a young boy who visits the Vietnam Memorial Wall in search of his grandfather's name. The Wall was the theme of the program. Students wrote letters to veterans which were posted on the wall of the cafeteria and will be delivered to veterans at Montrose Hospital.

Many veterans, including Ed Frank and Noah Sexton, the husbands of AAUW members Debbie Frank and Mary Jane Sexton, brought models of the vehicles on which they served during the war. Member Charles Butler, a Tuskegee airman and a Buffalo soldier, brought a video on a flight program currently operated by the Tuskegee airmen at Stewart Airport for young people interested in flying. Eugene Erickson, the oldest Marine present, cut the birthday cake celebrating the Nov. 10 birthday of the Marine Corps, with the ceremonial sword.

The program opened with a color guard of veterans and third grade students. The veterans said that they had a good time and the children enjoyed them as well. Many staff members came out to support the effort, including several who brought their families. This camaraderie and community support are among the many things that make working with Summit Park ES such a pleasure. Thanks to member Kim Hewlett, her team, and Superintendent Ira Oustacher.

**JCC CARES** On Monday, December 6 from 3 – 7 pm, a free public meet-and-greet event will take place aiming to bring together as many of the Rockland non-profits as possible. **We plan to staff a table at this event and need volunteers.** It will be held at the JCC Campus, 450 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994. **Please call Sylvia Miller 358-1680 or [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net) if you can volunteer for an hour or so.**  
Thank you.

## **ROCKLAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENTICED AT STEM CONFERENCE**

Twenty-two Rockland County juniors and seniors with interests in engineering futures, attended a conference on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at the Palisades Mall Community Room sponsored by AAUW, The Rockland County Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program, and the Rockland Teacher Center Institute. Added to the number of students were 14 guidance counselors and educators plus 7 parents for a grand total of 43 people, plus 25 engineers. The Honorable Ellen Jaffee offered words of encouragement to open the program. This was followed by a slide presentation about the greening of engineering and a student-built house using green technology at Rockland BOCES. Conferees enjoyed a buffet lunch and conversed with the engineers. Anthony Fasano, president of NSSPE Rockland, and Andrew Yarmus, immediate past president gave a presentation "Engineering 101," which described several fields of engineering and the academic requirements for them. The session concluded with a panel discussion and question and answer session during which students asked some terrific questions. The six panelists, of whom half were women, made some sensitive observations about pursuing your dream even if you weren't the valedictorian of your class, selecting the college that is right for your needs, and thoroughly exploring your options.

The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Everyone wanted the event to be presented again next year. It was suggested that sophomores be added next time. Nine students were interested in being assigned to mentors. Four students and one guidance counselor were interested in helping to plan future STEM events.

Thanks and congratulations on a highly successful event to the committee in charge, (Dr. Renee Brilliant, chair, Dr. Amy MacDermott, Bach Tuyet Pham) and to Bach Tuyet Pham who is responsible for initiating the connection with the Engineering group.

## ENGINEERS' LUNCHEON EVALUATION ANALYSIS PART- II

**What suggestions do you have for improving our next presentation?**

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS — (4 questionnaires returned)

GC: It was great. Very interesting (2 responses)

GC: Invite more guidance counselors (1 response)

**GC: Include 10th graders. How great that all of these kind people gave their time for these students.**

PARENTS - (4 questionnaires returned)

P: Short presentations by engineers of different disciplines, their education, career path, and typical day

**Panel format allowed students to hear how engineers came to decide their career paths, etc and to ask specific, usual practical questions**

**Stay away from in-depth presentations about one certain field. Students get a lot from Presentations about career possibilities, advice from those in the field, their choices.**

**Best piece of advice — Do not choose career based on earnings potential but on what you love to do.**

P: more time for Q and A by students

P: (2 responses) 1. Great presentation 2. No Answer

STUDENTS — (21 questionnaires return)

Have engineers representing a wide variety of fields (4 responses)

Show actual projects that engineers are working on through models and drawings (2 responses)

More hands-on or group work (2 responses)

**Include college students who are attending engineering programs.**

**Time management**

No changes. It was great. I enjoyed it. Fascinating and extremely informative. (3 responses)

**No response (8)**

**Did today's, presentation influence you to consider engineering as a career?**

**STUDENTS**

**Yes, especially the environmental presentation and Engineering 101**

**Yes. Learned more about Civil Engineering. (2 responses)**

**Yes. It influenced me more to become an engineer.**

**Yes. I learned about more types of engineering to narrow my choices.**

**Yes. It firmed up my interest.**

**Yes. It convinced me that I should look at Civil Engineering a little more closely. Yes. It strengthened my direction in engineering.**

**Yes. The presentations were very informative.**

**Yes. I was always interested but hearing the experiences of others made me more interested. Yes. It was inspirational and informative.**

**Yes. It helped me understand engineering more.**

**Yes. It influenced me and gave me more background than I had before.**

**Yes. Now I know that there are other important parts of engineering.**

**Yes (4 responses)**

**Blank (3 responses)**

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