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The 26th Annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference was a success!

Tucson, Arizona, March 1, 2008 – The Women In Science and Engineering Program (WISE) at the University of Arizona just completed their 26th Annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference (EYH), sponsored by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold /Sierrita Operations.

EYH was held the Integrated Learning Center on the University of Arizona campus. Over 100 young women from middle and high schools in southern Arizona participated in the one-day conference. The conference provided opportunities to interact with role models and to participate in creative, hands-on learning experiences.

The number of women in engineering, science, math and technology-related fields is disproportionately lower than that of men. This conference targeted pre-teen and teenage girls in response to research showing that girls often disengage from science, math and technology at this age. While girls show academic proficiency in these content areas, they often opt out of participating. EYH engaged girls in an interactive way while nourishing their interest and intellect, giving them confidence in using science, math and technology in a real-world setting, and building their capacity to integrate their daily lives with math and science.

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords served as the keynote speaker in the morning, encouraging the young attendees to get involved in science and mathematics so they can compete on the global market. Giffords also spoke about the importance of solar energy and the future of the alternative energy sources here in Arizona.

Following the keynote the students attended hands-on workshops designed and lead by University of Arizona faculty and clubs as well as local Tucson organizations. The workshops for 2008 were:

- Forensics: The Science Detectives, lead by Al Agellon of the University of Arizona
- Girls Inc. Savvy Spenders Workshop (SM), lead by Girls Inc.
- Roller Coasters & Lip Gloss, lead by Arizona Ambassadors
- Friends or Foes? Exploring the symbioses that surround us!, lead by Cara Gibson and Anne Estes of the University of Arizona
- CSI: Murder Mystery, lead by the University of Arizona's The BIOTECH Project
- Medical Examiners: Diagnosing Neurological Disorders, lead by the University of Arizona's The BIOTECH Project
- Listen to the Light, lead by Dr. Franko Kueppers of the University of Arizona
- Whales & Math, lead by Franklin Lane from the Sonoran Sea Aquarium
- What is Engineering?, lead by Micki Parr of the University of Arizona
- Driven to Design, lead by Katherine Salthouse from the UA Baja Racing Club
- Solar Oven Experiment, lead by the University of Arizona Solar Racing Team
- You are already an Optical Scientist!, lead by Women In Optics

Following the luncheon at the Memorial Student Union, the students attended Career Panels where various Tucson science and engineering professionals discussed their education, training, career experiences, etc. The students were



allowed to ask questions following the career panel sessions to better understand what education and experiences they will need to become scientists and engineers. This year's career panelists were:

- Suzanne Baron Helming, Raytheon Missile Systems
- Jody Beck, Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Sierrita Inc.
- Bongsi Bishop, Tucson Police Department
- Jeanette Blaine, Advanced Ceramics Research
- Betsy Bolding, Tucson Electric Power
- Jennifer Bond, Council on Competitiveness
- Danielle Brands, Ventana Medical Systems
- Sherry Burt-Kested, Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Sierrita Inc.
- Sara Dolan, WestLand Resources, Inc.
- Patricia Eliason, National Solar Observatory
- Kara Festa, WestLand Resources, Inc.
- Heidi Flugstad, Wheat Scharf Associates
- Kathryn Foster, TLCP Structural
- Hillary Hastreiter, Raytheon Missile Systems
- Ellen Hezlep, The Buzz
- Kali Hoyack, Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Sierrita Inc.
- Xiumin Ju, WestLand Resources, Inc.
- Ruth Kneale, National Solar Observatory
- Dr. Patricia Knezek, WIYN Consortium, Inc./NOAO
- Josephine Korchmaros, Ph.D., Southwest Institute for Research on Women
- Megan Lehrkamp, Ventana Medical Systems
- Marilyn Lindell, RN and Captain Nurse Corps
- Maria Masque, The Planning Center
- Laura McGill, Raytheon Missile Systems
- Susan Cummins Miller, The Southwest Institute for Research on Women
- Dr. Lynne Oland, The University of Arizona
- Tara Paulsen, University of Arizona, Bio5
- Kristen Potter, Ph.D. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Student
- Lynn Rae, WestLand Resources, Inc.
- Carol Richardson, WestLand Resources, Inc.
- Tiana Ronstadt, Power Women Investing
- Ana Sacks-Rossfeldt, Raytheon Missile Systems
- Gail Spear, IBM
- Dr. Anna Spitz, University of Arizona/Freelance
- Nicole Stern, M.D., The University of Arizona
- Kegan Tom, The Architecture Company
- Saumya Sivaram VanderWyst, The University of Arizona
- Connie Walker, Ph.D., NOAO
- Lois Wardell, Latitude Engineering
- Fushi Wen, The University of Arizona

The conference concluded with an awards ceremony (tickets earned by asking questions during career panels!). Some lucky girls left with laptops donated by Raytheon and lots of goodies from Braincake.org. Other sponsors were:

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Individual Contributions

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Pam Grissom
Deborah A. Hendrix
Maria Masque, The Planning Center

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Cadsoft Consulting, Inc.
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Luna Bars
National Solar Observatory

For additional information on the Expanding Your Horizons Conference or the WISE program, contact Hilary Beggs or visit <http://ws.web.arizona.edu/wise>.

ABOUT WISE- WISE was created to develop a pipeline of support from middle school through graduate studies to recruit and retain women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields to increase the pool of diverse, highly motivated and qualified scientists and engineers.

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