

AAUW NJ and Bloomfield College Team Up for Teentech
Newark Area High School Girls to Participate in Hands-on Technology Workshops

AAUW NJ Teentech Newark 2018 was held on Tuesday, May 22, at Bloomfield College, Bloomfield NJ. The goal of this workforce preparedness program, sponsored by the American Association of University Women of NJ (AAUW NJ) and Bloomfield College, was to give young women from Newark area high schools an opportunity to explore the possibilities for a college education and career in a STEM field (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

The event featured hands-on workshops designed to engage high school girls in the broad opportunities available in STEM fields. According to their interests, each student participated in two of the seven workshops that were offered in fields such as 3-D printing, audio engineering, game design, medical technology and more.

Dr. Tresmaine Grimes, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Bloomfield College, is enthusiastic about the program. "Bloomfield College is honored to serve as the venue for the 2018 AAUW NJ Teentech Newark conference. Our commitment to under-represented populations makes this the perfect event for us," said Dr. Grimes. "We hope this conference will encourage more girls to pursue careers in STEM since women, especially women of color, are significantly low in number in STEM fields. I am especially appreciative of the Bloomfield College faculty and staff volunteers who will participate in the conference to share their collective wisdom, talents, and experience with the participants."

Bloomfield College sees the importance in STEM awareness and has the opportunity to become a leader in producing minority and female STEM graduates through the advancement of its Natural Sciences and Mathematics division (which currently boasts an 82% retention rate). The College's success in this area would have a significant impact on economic development in local community and state, providing the next generation of STEM leaders for the Garden State.

According to Karen Brown, AAUW NJ's project director for Teentech Newark 2018, "There are many reasons women are still underrepresented in STEM careers, but AAUW research shows that one way this can be changed is by actively countering stereotypes. AAUW NJ organizes events such as Teentech to give girls the chance to experience, 'I can do this! I can work in a college lab, with computers and math, and it's fun and rewarding.' We want young women to get on an educational path that will empower them to take full advantage of rewarding and exciting technology careers. We know companies want to hire more women, and hire locally – we're helping the young women to be prepared. AAUW NJ is grateful to Bloomfield College for providing the resources to bring a Teentech event to the Newark area."

###

American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a nationwide organization whose mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Our 170,000 members and supporters span local and virtual communities, cities and college campuses. On campuses, we foster the next generation of women in leadership and in the workplace. After graduation, we mentor, fund, and support educational and professional development. From college through career and beyond, we're working to change the future. **Website: www.aauw.org**
AAUW NJ website: www.aauwnj.org

Bloomfield College is celebrating its 150th anniversary of preparing students to attain academic, personal and professional excellence in a multicultural and global society. A comprehensive liberal arts institution, Bloomfield College not only attracts students from New Jersey's suburban and urban neighborhoods, but

from around the globe. The campus rests on 12.5 acres within the township of Bloomfield, in the heart of the Bloomfield Center Revitalization area. The institution currently enrolls approximately 1,900 undergraduate students and offers five graduate programs. Bloomfield College offers NCAA Division II Athletics and more than 40 majors and concentrations within seven academic divisions. **Website:** www.bloomfield.edu