

American Association of University Women

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M-F 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EST | www.aauw.org

AAUW North Carolina

Theme:

Expanding Our Horizons

Look beyond your own branch in
pursuit of our mission.

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President**

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When & Where!

June 26-28 2009

AAUW Convention

St. Louis

July 17-18, 2009

AAUW NC Summer Board Meeting

Hendersonville Branch

Quality Inn and Suites, Hendersonville

See page__

October 9-10, 2009

AAUW NC Fall Leadership Meeting

High Country Branch

Broyhill Inn at ASU, Boone

Tar Heel News

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STEM project encourages mutual learning

By Kay White, Chapel Hill Branch President

Chapel Hill's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program, called SPARC, began in Fall 2008. Our project provided a five-week program, two days each week, for third to fifth grade girls in the After School Program at the Oak Grove Elementary School in Durham, N.C. Our goal was to provide one to two hands-on activities with a female professional in a STEM field. Two to three of our members would be in attendance at each session and assessments were to be made at various points during the program. In terms of diversity, two Hispanics, one white, and 14 African-American girls participated.

In measuring the success of our program, we valued the observations of our branch volunteers. We learned 1) girls at this age have great enthusiasm for anything new; 2) they don't know many people in STEM careers, but by the end of the program, they had learned about the careers of some of the STEM women professionals.

Each child left the program with a notebook full of their notes on the various STEM professions and the hands-on activities.



We will adapt our program based on feedback:

- Shorten discussion of the biography of the professional to allow more time for hands-on activities;
- Refine and copy our model in other After School Programs;
- It's easy to get the girls excited about STEM hands-on activities, but
- It's difficult to predict if the girls at this age will go into a STEM career.

We have begun our Spring 2009 SPARC program at Oak Grove and will report on that program at a later date.

Want to know more about STEM? See

www.aauwnc.org/category/stem and www.aauw.org/education/ngcp/interest.cfm

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