

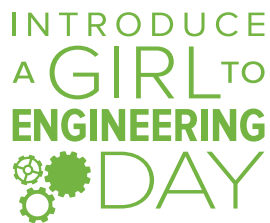


‘INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY’ ADDRESSING STEM CAREER GENDER GAP

THE CHALLENGE

There has long been a confounding gender gap in the sciences. According to a 2015 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce, women held only 30 percent of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degrees and only 24 percent of STEM jobs.

Despite inclusion efforts in recent years, a significant gap remains.



WOMEN IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THE OUTREACH

With this gap in mind, each year the U.S. Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory invites more than 100 eighth-grade girls to the lab for “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day” (IGED). At IGED, students meet women engineers, learn about engineering careers, and do hands-on activities and experiments.

Participants interact with mentors and tour Argonne laboratories and other facilities. During lunch, the students talk with female Argonne researchers who work in a range of disciplines, thus giving the students exposure to various potential careers and paths to those careers. The day culminates in a team competition that challenges the students to design a running model car.

THE IMPACT

- Since IGED’s inaugural year in 2002, more than 1,000 eighth-grade girls from the Chicagoland area have attended the event.
- Over the years, dozens of IGED graduates have contacted their IGED organizers and mentors to tell them that their IGED experience was instrumental in their pursuit of STEM degrees and careers. Many IGED mentors act as life-long mentors by staying in touch with past IGED students.

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