



# ‘SCIENCE CAREERS IN SEARCH OF WOMEN’ PROGRAM INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN TO PURSUE STEM CAREERS

## THE CHALLENGE

It’s no secret there is a gender gap in the sciences. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, women are vastly underrepresented among STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degree holders and in STEM jobs.

In recent years, the number of girls and women studying STEM has steadily increased, but a significant — and confounding — gap remains.



## THE OUTREACH

Each spring since 1987, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory has hosted an event called “Science Careers in Search of Women,” or SCSW, which is tailored to female high school students.

More than 350 young women from high schools in the Chicagoland area attend each year and are exposed to a range of potential STEM careers and paths to those careers. More than 50 Argonne scientists and engineers assist with SCSW each year.

The day includes a keynote address from a prominent speaker, panel discussions with participants from a variety of scientific and engineering fields, Argonne facility tours and career booths. At lunch, each student is matched for a discussion with a female Argonne researcher who works in a discipline that is of interest to the student.

## THE IMPACT

- Since SCSW started more than 20 years ago, more than 10,000 high school girls have participated in the program.
- Over the years, many SCSW graduates have contacted SCSW organizers and mentors to tell them that the SCSW experience was instrumental in their pursuit of STEM degrees and careers. Many SCSW mentors act as life-long mentors and stay connected with past SCSW students.

## CONTACT

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