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Schoolcraft program points girls to STEM

[Brad Kadrich](http://hometownlife.com), hometownlife.com

In a satisfying number, more than 80 girls Saturday pored over literature and examined examples of careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at Schoolcraft College. And that's exactly what was supposed to happen.

Schoolcraft hosted a five-hour symposium designed to point girls — particularly those in fifth through eighth grade — into STEM careers. With their hands-on event, Schoolcraft officials were hoping to encourage girls to get involved in STEM fields.

The event was **hosted by Schoolcraft College, the Livonia branch of the American Association of University Women and Livonia Public Schools.**

"One of the aims of AAUW nationally is to increase opportunities for girls in the STEM areas," said **Carol Strom, an AAUW member who also happens to be vice chair of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.** "We have found in the past that, when we did programs where there were both girls and boys that the girls tend to sit back and not contribute. (AAUW) felt it was important these activities be for girls only."

The event included hands-on demonstrations and experiments for the girls, as well as information sessions on STEM careers and college options for parents. Attendees heard from speakers like Dr. Robert Leadley, dean of occupational programs and economic development at Schoolcraft, and Dr. Tonya Matthews, president and CEO of the Michigan Science Center.

Organizers were very pleased with the success of the event, which the college has been hosting the last few years. "We felt it's important for girls to have the opportunity to see the STEM activities as a real chance for them to develop in these areas as they get older," Strom said.



Livonia students Noelle Divinagracia, Gabriella Wilson and JaiLynn Cruse take part in a technology experiment as they build rockets that they tested during the AAUW Girls in STEM event held Saturday at Schoolcraft College. Tom Beaudoin



Livonia middle school students Noelle Michalski, Leah Haberek and Alexandra Beck learn about DNA in the biology workshop. Tom Beaudoin



Students learn about the injection molding program at the STEM workshop held Saturday at Schoolcraft College and sponsored by AAUW's Livonia Branch. Tom Beaudoin