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Girls STEAM Project Talladega County, AL

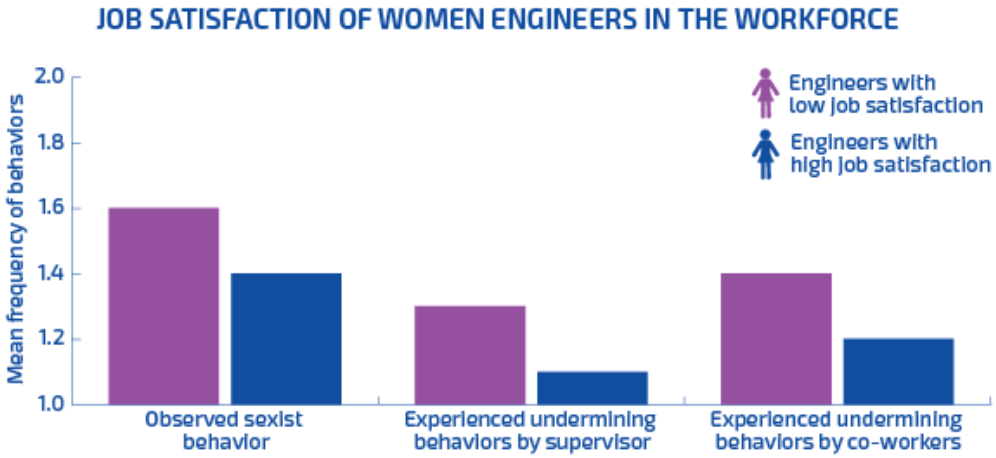
AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The Girls STEAM Project goal is to help seventh and eighth grade girls in Talladega County expand their horizons in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) with an Art component.

Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing (2013) – Part 3

Show Women They Are Welcome in These Fields

Women who leave engineering are very similar to women who stay in engineering. The differences are found not in the women themselves but in their workplace environments. Women who left were less likely to have had opportunities for training and development, support from co-workers or supervisors, and support for balancing work and non-work roles than were women who stayed in their professions.

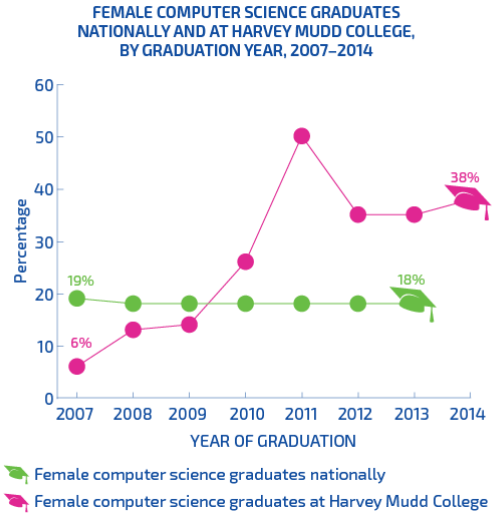


Women engineers who were most satisfied with their jobs, in contrast, worked for organizations that provided clear paths for advancement, gave employees challenging assignments that helped develop and strengthen new skills, and valued and recognized employees' contributions. In other words, workplaces with good management practices were more likely to retain women employees.

AAUW: Seeking Success for Girls in STEM

Watch for fun and educational events for Talladega County 7th and 8th grade girls in future Girls STEAM Project Newsletters.

Harvey Mudd College has dramatically increased the number of women computer science graduates at the school with three simple interventions designed to welcome beginning students into the curriculum rather than weed them out. The college



1. Revised its required introductory computer science course to emphasize broad applications of computer science and accommodate different levels of experience.
2. Provides students with early research opportunities.
3. Sends women students to the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing.

In just five years, the percentage of women Harvey Mudd computer science graduates grew from a historical average of 12 to around 40 percent, while the national average stalled at 18 percent. What if we took the lessons from these efforts and applied them to businesses and K–12 education?
(Source: AAUW Website, http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/)

Breaking Barriers for 7th & 8th Grade Girls at CACC

Emily Nestor, Technology Integration Specialist, Talladega County Schools, talked recently how Childersburg, Fayetteville, and Winterboro 7th and 8th grade girls explored STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) careers and college degrees during the Girls STEAM Project event at CACC on November 17, 2017. "Based on these explorations, the girls worked collaboratively to identify words and phrases that symbolize women in STEAM. These words and phrases will then be turned into visual representations at each of the three participating schools through the use of a coding based 3D design program."

"AAUW researchers know that career choice begins in the middle school years and is influenced by parents, teachers, peers, and the media," said Audrey L. Salgado, AAUW Girls STEAM Project Co-Director. "We can positively change the perception of the STEM professions with intentional effort to influence parents, teachers, and students in our communities."

"In order to break the barrier for Girls in STEAM, we must provide girls with opportunities to explore STEAM in real world context and to foster their curiosity through hands on learning." stated Nestor.

Girls STEAM Project is funded in part by an AAUW Community Action Grant.

TALLADEGA COUNTY Girls STEAM