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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOSTS MATH CONFERENCE FOR GIRLS

CHARLESTON, IL--Registrations are still being accepted for "Expanding Your Horizons Through Math and Science," a motivating conference for seventh and eighth grade girls, hosted by Eastern Illinois University.

Area parents and teachers are also invited to participate in a workshop especially designed for them during the April 6 conference.

Persons may register by calling EIU's School of Adult and Continuing Education at 217/581-5114. The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 27. A \$10 fee includes all conference materials and lunch.

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A limited number of fee waivers are available to those with financial need. To apply, please contact Cheryl Hawker at 217/581-2426.

"This program is designed to encourage girls to take more math and science classes," said Jonell Comerford, assistant professor of mathematics at Eastern and conference coordinator. "By doing that, they increase their career options. We also intend to make the day fun by demonstrating to the girls that math and science have real-world applications," said Comerford.

The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. with activities centered in McAfee Gym North and the Physical Science Building on the Eastern campus.

Participants will select three of more than 20 "hands-on" math and science workshops to attend, explore math and science exhibits and gain expert and inspirational advice from successful women with careers in medicine, business and government.

Workshop topics include "What Does Sound Look Like," "Mystery of Microbes," "Mathematical Magic Activities," "The Colors of Atoms," and "Think Outside the Box."

Presenters include representatives from State Farm Insurance, St. John's Hospital, Boehringer-Mannheim, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Illinois Department of Transportation and Coles Clinic.

A workshop for parents and teachers, "Planning Now for Their Tomorrow," will involve sessions on career information and math anxiety. Panelists will also outline specific ways that parents and teachers can help girls pursue non-traditional careers involving math and science skills.

The conference is being sponsored by a scientific literacy grant from the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Mid-Illinois Educational Service Region #15 and Eastern Illinois University.