BRITE Girls Online STEM Practices: Building Relevance and Identity to Transform Experiences | AWARD #2215138

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https://britesummer.org/

Project Description

To study the impact of an online platform and curriculum (Brite) designed using an intersectional lens that engages girls in community-building, hands-on activities, and engagement with diverse role models on their STEM identity development as measured through sense of belonging, competence, performance, and recognition.

Key Achievements

In July 2023, we held our first Brite program and had 71 girls from across 9 organizations participate. To prepare for the program, we organized three trainings and equipped 30 educators with curricular resources to facilitate small group discussions and hands-on activities and to support girls in talking with role models.

Based on the research and evaluation results, we plan to create more engagement opportunities for girls with each other and the role models to strengthen the community-building.

The goal for next year is to have 250 girls participate.

Audience & Settings

Audience: Middle and High school girls (ages 13-16), focus on girls from historically excluded groups.
Disciplinary area: Computer science, physical science, engineering
Learning environment: Virtual platform

Access and Inclusion

Equity is key to our project. In year 1, our research and evaluation informed our decisions on improved engagement to increase participation from African American and Latina girls. This finding is influencing our choices for recruitment, curriculum design and platform updates.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant 2229061. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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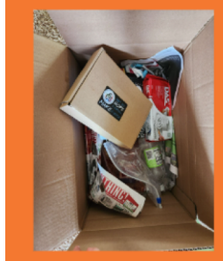
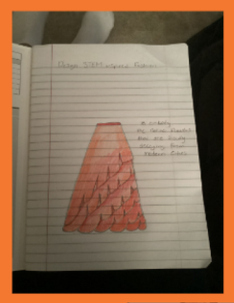
A sampling of projects and reflections shared during Brite Fest, a weekly celebration for the Brite Community hosted by a woman STEM role model.

SciTech Institute

Presenters: Jasmin and Saanvi

Collaborative





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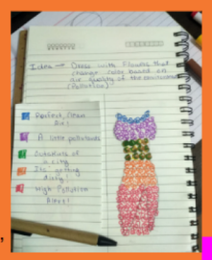
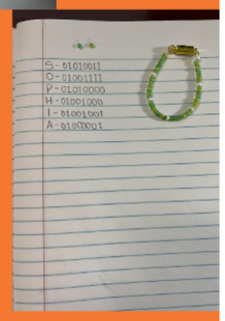




Motivational

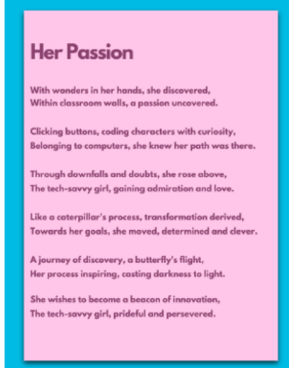
CSOs: Christina, Gloria, Jasmin, Kianna, Makayla, Saanvi, Sahiba, Sophia, Valentina

Educator: Eileen

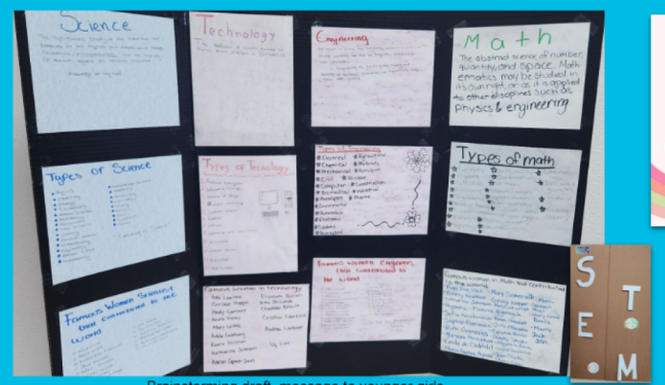
STEM-tastic!

Insights Science Discovery

Inspired in part by the Brite Role models, this week's activities evolved into an exploration of the connection between their STEM and non-STEM interests,, and what messages they want to tell younger girls (or their younger selves!). These are some of the results



Poem inspired by case study exercise

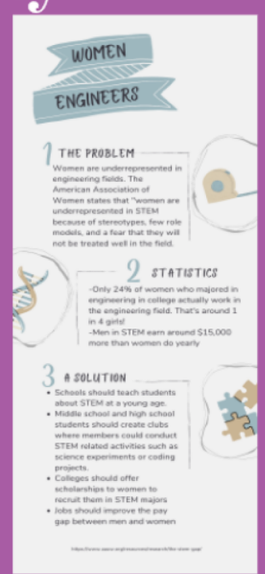


Brainstorming draft, message to younger girls

Beginning of digital version

Ms Camilla C., Ms Yareli G., Ms Anaili V., Ms Gwen R., Ms Vivian G., Ms Elena R., Ms Daniela B.

Williamson County 4-H

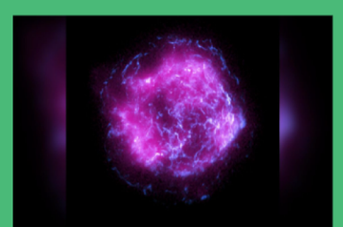


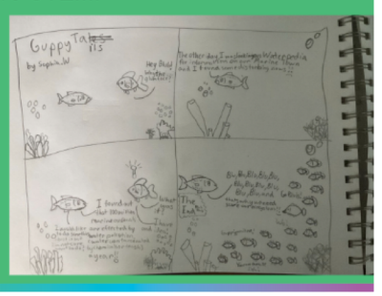
This week the girls built objects, learned about different careers, and learned some of the struggles women face and created solutions for these problems. Some of the careers the girls chose were ultrasound technologist and mechatronic engineer. They also were creative and created different ways to store their day to day necessities by building boxes out of cardboard!

Girls:
Sophia R, Akshita D, Akshara N, Anaanya N, Srinika N, Addison T, Jhanvi D, and Manaasa K

Girls Scouts of Historic Georgia

We had so much fun being apart of BRITE, and we are sad it is coming to an end. Here are a couple of our projects and some of our favorite highlights from this week (supernova and axolotl). We thank BRITE and all of the women in STEM that took the time to show us that we can do anything we set our mind to. We are all inspired and eager to take all the things we learned and apply them to our STEM journey. Thank you again for such an amazing experience! :) Girl Scouts love STEM!





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