n√ Power Girls

Cultivating achievement and interest in STEM

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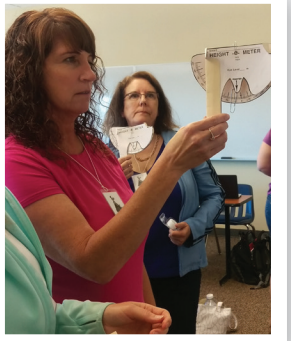
nPower Girls blasts off!

The first convening of nPower Girls took place at Clark College's Columbia Tech Center on June 18-19, 2015. ESD112's Math and Science Coordinators Sue Bluestein and Vickei Hrdina initiated the June sessions by bringing Olin College engineer Mihir Ravel, and Portland State University professor Cary Sneider, to launch the project off with a blast!

> *"Kids like to feel that they're building something really useful, an adult thing."*
>
> – Mihir Ravel

The workshop used a rocket launcher building activity to drive home how the four disciplines of STEM can be integrated into a single project based learning unit. Teachers used PVC pipe, a bicycle pump, a valve, a pressure gauge, and a pressure release valve (for safety). Teachers utilized an engineering process to explore how variations in rocket design would impact the height of a rocket's flight. In addition, they were encouraged to do a full cycle of design, test, redesign, and re-test at least once during the school year.

Gearing up for STEM



On Day 2, teachers explored STEM through a single lens…gears! In small groups, teachers explored the science behind force and motion in gears and how to apply ratio and proportion to the study of gears in math, solved an engineering challenge, and lastly explored the technology of how gears interact to create motion. Teachers dove into the research that discusses how to support and encourage girls in STEM subjects.

Teachers left by documenting their wonderings and questions. Many stated that they had already begun plans to start using some of the materials and information this fall! The two days wrapped up with much excitement over the work to come in the next few years.

August Workshop

August 13 & 14
8:30am-4:00pm
Clark College, Vancouver, WA
Penguin Union Building (PUB), Rm 161
Click here for more information.

Article of Interest:

Why It's Crucial to Get More Women Into Science

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