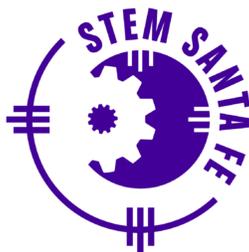


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Contact: Dr. Lina Germann, CEO  
[Lina.Germann@stemsantafe.org](mailto:Lina.Germann@stemsantafe.org)  
505-310-4122

## STEM Santa Fe's Annual STEM Pathways for Girls Conference Returns With In-Person, Hands-on Workshops

STEM Santa Fe presents their annual STEM Pathways for Girls Conference, an inspiring day of women-led, hands-on workshops for 5th-8th grade girls in Northern New Mexico, designed to enrich their relationship to STEM and connect them with female role models in related careers. This year, the workshop portion of the conference is back in person on Saturday, October 30 under COVID-safe practices at Santa Fe Community College. STEM Santa Fe will stream keynote speeches live on their YouTube channel at 5:30 on Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30.



The aim of the STEM Pathways for Girls program is to begin to address the severe lack of representation of women in STEM at its source: from ages 11-15, societal pressures stymie girls' interest in these fields. Fortunately, [research shows](#) that involving 5th-8th grade girls in project-based STEM activities outside of school and engaging them with female role models who work in these sectors profoundly nurtures their enthusiasm for STEM. When they participate in programs like this one, girls are more than twice as likely to choose STEM classes in high school, feel creative through STEM activities, understand the job options in STEM, and feel empowered to make an impact on the world through STEM. Besides all these benefits, hands-on activities make STEM fun!

On Saturday, 12 women in STEM careers will lead hands-on, interactive workshops on topics from glaciers to wildfires, themed around Earth Stewardship through STEM. Girls can choose a morning or afternoon session. Two impressive women in STEM careers will give opening and closing keynote speeches. Rebecca Erikson, Senior Staff Scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and inventor of the PNNL smartphone microscope will give the opening address. Dr. Donna Nelson, Professor of Chemistry at University of Oklahoma will close the conference by speaking about her research into diversity in STEM fields. More information about the keynote speakers and workshop lineup can be found on the [STEM Santa Fe website](#).



Empower a girl in your life and register for the conference at [www.stemsantafe.org](http://www.stemsantafe.org) or by calling 505-539-0394. The \$25 enrollment fee can be waived upon request.

*STEM Santa Fe advocates for, develops, and provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programming, mentoring, and resources for all youth, to realize their potential and expand their opportunities in a dynamic world.*