



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Trina Patterson

Phone: 801-699-0943

E-mail: trina.patterson@atk.com

The Annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference another Major success

Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Grade Girls Spend a Saturday Learning about Math and Science

OGDEN, Utah, November 8, 2008 – Over 600 girls in grades 6 through 9 did something this weekend that is out of character for a teenager - they woke up early on a Saturday to learn about math and science.

The girls participated in the eighth annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) in Science and Mathematics conference sponsored by ATK Launch Systems. The conference was held at Mt. Ogden Jr. High and included hands-on learning about math and science. The conference goal is to get young women excited about and interested in science, math and technical careers, where men still hold a majority. The conference had 29 varied workshop activities that give the young women a sense of what a job in these fields would be like.

“ATK understands that if these girls get hooked on science and math at a young age, there is a good chance they will pursue those types of degrees when they get to college,” said Lydia Biegert, EYH conference chair for ATK. “It is exciting to see these girls returning year after year, excited to learn about these topics.”

The workshops included a variety of activities including learning how to be a pharmacist, what it is like to be a doctor, making rockets, creating slimy goo, crime scene analysis and working with a veterinarian. Parents also had the opportunity to attend a session called Higher Ed 101, aimed at helping prepare them for getting their daughters ready for higher education.

The conference organizers and presenters are mostly female industry professionals from Northern Utah who volunteer their time and expertise for this event.

“I really think this experience today is going to change some of these girl’s career choices, this event shows that math and science really are fun,” said Cindy Allen a math teacher from South Cache 8-9 Center in Hyrum, Utah. Mrs. Allen brought a bus of fifty-one girls to the conference. “When I read the brochure and saw the classes I was amazed, the classes were incredible and this was an opportunity I did not want the girls to miss.”

The girls in attendance came from 100 different schools from across Northern Utah and Idaho. The annual conference has become an extremely popular event, reaching maximum capacity weeks before the conference.

The Expanding Your Horizons Network is a national organization whose charge is to spark the interest of young women to pursue careers in the math and science fields. The goals of the Expanding Your Horizons

program is to promote how math and science can be fun, provide opportunities for young women to meet and learn about careers from women working in math- and science-related fields and encourage young women to take full advantage of opportunities to gain the maximum amount of education in math and science before graduating from high school.

For more information visit <http://www.atk.com/eyh/eyh.htm>

#









