"Be Somebody"

Eastland College SWE Forum
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Female Participation Gap in STEM

- Students choose a study pathway in the 8th grade and “Girls are Smart”
- But Girl participation high school STEM classes is < 20%
- College engineering drop-out rate is > 34% but women are as likely as men to graduate with degrees in 5-6 years
- 25% of women leave STEM careers after the age of 30 years
- STEM jobs are the fastest growing and highest paid but much underserved

STEM Girl Challenges

- Most students have not “seen” (or know) an engineer
- Most parents are not informed either about STEM opportunities & benefits
- Most 8th graders are not ready to make an informed pathway decision
- Most 9 – 12th grade girls are not interested in taking elective STEM classes
- Most volunteer time with students is limited to one-time mentoring events
- There is a shortage of women role models as STEM mentors
- Future strategies to achieve equity for Women in STEM require approaches that are effective in the recruitment and retention from Middle-School thru College and Professional Careers