

Goals:

- Increase awareness in young women about careers in engineering, mathematics, science and technology
- Provide opportunities for young women to explore the educational requirements for these career options and to interact with professional women in these and related fields
- Offer support and encouragement for young women who demonstrate both interest and potential, but who may need guidance in their career planning



Objectives:

- Expose each student to a variety of careers, with emphasis on those that are considered non-traditional for women
- Introduce role models from minority and other underrepresented groups
- Provide participants with tangible mementos to encourage a long-term positive recollection of the experience

Math Options feedback from area high school teachers:

“[This was] a wonderful program which inspired not only my students, but myself as well! Thank you!”

“The girls and I thoroughly enjoyed this experience... thank you for all your hard work in making this happen.”

“Very worthwhile! My girls loved everything!”

“It was a wonderful day. The students had a wonderful time and we are looking forward to next year.”

MATH OPTIONS

For more information on the Math Options program, contact:

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MATH OPTIONS

A Math and Science Career Day for Young Women in 10th and 11th Grade



Encouraging today's women to prepare for tomorrow's careers in engineering, math, science, and technology.

What is Math Options?

Math Options is a career awareness program for young women in 10th and 11th grade that highlights opportunities in engineering, mathematics, science and technology.

Math Options brings together young women and professional women from the fields of academia, medicine, government, business and industry for a day of workshops

and discussion at our Penn State Abington campus. Participants benefit from career information, interaction with successful role models, and, for many of the young women, maybe the first glimpse that college is a viable option.



How It All Started:

Math Options has grown tremendously since its inception in 1991, when 150 seventh grade girls and 30 teachers came to the Penn State Abington campus. Since then, the program has served more than 3,500 seventh grade girls and 250 young women from area high schools who participated in a day of hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and presentations by women professionals. In response to changes in Pennsylvania educational trends and policies, Math Options now provides services to young women in 10th and 11th grades.

Appropriate Participants:

An important issue for Math Options has always been the careful selection of participants. Schools are specifically asked to select students who have demonstrated aptitude and a keen interest in math and science, but may need extra support or guidance in their education and career plans. We also stress the importance of including an accurate representation of the student body of each high school. All participants are encouraged to share their experiences with friends and classmates.

Why Young Women?

Numerous studies have shown that inequities that exist, both in and out of school, can deter and prevent girls from pursuing careers in engineering, mathematics and science. In response, programs are needed to encourage and support young women to aspire to these careers.

“When I was your age, if someone could have said, ‘these are the things that are going to matter’... it would have made a difference. In an area where it would have made a difference is in math and science. I tended not to go after these areas and it has been to my everlasting detriment. You are pursuing Math Options. You are doing well in math. You are doing well in applied science. And I applaud that. I think it’s so important that young women not limit themselves.”

—Part of a videotaped message from **Renee Chenault-Fattah**, attorney and NBC 10 broadcast journalist.

Some quotes from participants:

“I felt excited and inspired for what the future has in store for me.”

“I originally came to get out of school, but I really, really liked it.”

“It was reaffirmed that as long as I overcome obstacles, I can pursue any education and any career that I put my heart on.”

We look forward to the planning of future Math Options events. If you are interested in how you or your company can help, please contact Deanna Bosley at 215-881-7339 or dlb61@psu.edu.