

## Expanding Your Horizons at Skyline College For Workshop Presenters

**E**xpanding Your Horizons (EYH) is a math-science conference for girls designed to encourage the success of women in science- and math-related fields and to promote education as a means for young women to achieve a desirable lifestyle. Math and science were chosen as the conference focus to help break down sex-stereotyping regarding the success of females in traditionally male-dominated careers and to provide role models and encouragement for the young women attending EYH.

Each March, 1000 girls attend the Expanding Your Horizons at Skyline College. The majority (80%) are 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders. The girls start their day with fruit and a fruit drink before their first of three workshops: The girls participate in three hands-on workshops during the day-long conference. Each workshop is 1 hour and 20 minutes. (The exact times vary each year). Lunch is provided for participants and presenters and the third workshop is held after lunch. Workshops are limited to 25 girls and are conducted by professionals in math, science, healthcare, and engineering.

One purpose of the workshops is to expose girls to careers and fields of study that they did not heretofore know, however, the girls register based on a brief description of the workshop and their interests. In 2006, the preregistration favorites were:

- Cover Girl Chemist
- Forensic Science–Has CSI Got it Right?
- Root Beer, Cheese and a Kiss
- Scrub In!

A comparison of pre- and postconference favorites indicates that a postconference favorite workshop may be one that is least familiar before the conference. In 2006, the post-conference favorites included:

- Cover Girl Chemist
- Become a Web Engineer
- Funtastic Whales
- Let's Make Slime

The favorite workshops provided the most hands-on activities. The girls commented:

- “We made deodorant.”
- “The microscope was really cool.”
- “It was very hands-on.” deodorant.”
- “The microscope was really cool.”
- “It was very hands-on.”
- “Learned instruments and got to keep the clothes.”

See *Tips For A Successful Workshop* at <http://skylinecollege.edu/eyh>