

Program: Creating STEM Opportunities for Members of Girls Inc.

Speaker: Elyssa Campodonico-Barr, President and CEO, Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis

Introduced by: Jeff Rasley

Attendance: 99

Guest: Lynda Ray

Scribe: Gonz Chua

Editor: Carl Warner

The speaker started by defining Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis and its mission to make all girls strong, smart and bold. It wants to equip girls to navigate gender, economics and social barriers and grow into healthy, educated and independent adults. It is open, without charge, to all girls from 6-18 years of age. It provides an all-girl environment and focuses on healthy relations, conflict resolution and to helps to educate the girls in all subjects related to STEM in their own environment.

The organization started as Girls Club of Indianapolis and Model Cities Girls Club in 1969 and later merged as Girls Club of Marion County and operated until 1979. In the 1990's, the Girls Club of America changed its name to Girls Incorporated and the Marion County Girls Club changed to Girls Inc. of Indianapolis.

Girls Inc. provides programs of exposure such as a six-week outreach program and Girls Inc. Days, and programs that provide impact such as Summer Camp, Young Women in Leadership, Eureka and Empower Hubs.

The targets of the club are 6-18 year old girls, mostly within Indianapolis area but also including the urban cores of Carmel, Greenwood and Fishers. A majority of these girls are from lower socio-economic families, and science education may not be foremost in their minds and agendas. The club relies on over 400 volunteers to help these young girls.

Eureka is explained in detail as a four-week summer camp of learning. It is structured to run for 5 years, enrolling the group starting in 8th grade. This is the first year of the program and they just completed the third week. The program is partnered with IUPUI School of Informatics and Computing, School of Nursing, School of Medicine, Cummins Incorporated, and is supported, in-part, by the Sciencetech Foundation. The purpose of intensive training is to help the girls toward a career path in a STEM profession.

You can learn more about Girls Inc. and its programs and impact at:

<https://girlsincindy.org/programs/our-curricula/> and <https://girlsincindy.org/our-impact/>



Elyssa Campodonico-Barr