

AAUW STEM NEWS 2Q 2016

AAUW spearheads the effort to get more women and girls involved in STEM. Read the latest news from AAUW's national office below, and find more information on the [AAUW website](#).

Masculinity Is Not Leadership

Have you ever immediately assumed that a doctor, politician, or professor was a man and then later realized your mistake? Maybe you walked into a meeting and assumed that the female client was an assistant or lower-ranking professional and not the CEO. If so, the moment might have registered an awkward “whoops” and a brief feeling of surprise. But what’s really going on when we assume that those in powerful positions are men?

AAUW's new research report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*, finds that the reasons we equate men and masculinity with leadership have little to do with facts and a lot to do with stereotypes and assumptions. [Read the rest of our blog on masculinity and leadership](#) and [check out our research report](#).

Letter in Support of Computer Science for All Movement

AAUW joined major leaders in the technology and education sectors to urge Congress to help fund state and school initiatives to bring more girls into computing fields. The proposition includes \$250 million for K–12 computer science programs, funding that would leverage efforts already under way in states and schools throughout the country. [AAUW's research](#) shows a wide gender gap in computing, but we know that women who take AP computer science in high school are [10 times more likely](#) to major in computer science in college. This funding would improve our country's global competitiveness and also address the lack of diversity in the technology sector. [Read more](#).

AAUW Tech Savvy 2016 Is Under Way!

These popular workshops for girls are taking place across the country. [Learn more about an upcoming AAUW Tech Savvy event near you](#).

AAUW and Green Works Collaborate on StemBox

The first [StemBox](#) has arrived! Help girls unleash their [#NaturalPotential](#) by subscribing to [StemBox](#), a \$28 monthly subscription service providing at-home science experiments for girls. In an AAUW collaboration with Green Works, a portion of proceeds from each subscription during the month of March was donated to AAUW to help further the advancement of girls in STEM.

Watch STEM Come to Life with FabLab

Tune in with your favorite “stemminist” for the fun collaboration between AAUW and FabLab, airing weekend mornings on your local Fox affiliate. This new show explores some of the coolest ways in which discoveries, inventions, and innovators are making the world a better place. [Get more details.](#)

STEM STORIES

The AAUW blog is a great source for stories from inspirational women in STEM, updates from our national headquarters, news about branch STEM events, and more. Check out the latest STEM blog posts, and find more [STEM-related stories online.](#)

My Aha Moment: Was It Stereotype Threat?

“At the time of my aha moment, I was a doctoral student in [engineering education](#). I was also one of just a few African Americans living in a small college town with a black population of less than 1 percent. I stood out for other reasons, too: Many of the residents were part of a religious organization to which I did not belong. I was a nontraditional student. I was in my forties, married, and a mom. I attended a university where people of color were noticeably absent. My race, age, and religious affiliation classified me as an outsider — a label I had already become familiar with as an [African American female engineer](#).” [Read more of Stacie Gregory’s story on the blog.](#)

3 Ways to Introduce Girls to Engineering Today

Girls are graduating from high school on nearly equal footing with boys in terms of math and science achievement. Yet by the time they’ve graduated college, women hold just 19 percent of engineering degrees. And even though some women enter the engineering workforce, that doesn’t mean they end up staying: Women leave engineering jobs at higher rates than men do. The good news is there’s something you can do to support a future woman engineer right now. [Read more.](#)

FROM THE FIELD

Girls are discovering STEM programs right in their backyards! Every issue of *Spotlight on STEM* will preview events and programs run by AAUW branches across the nation. Attend or host an event in your area, and follow [AAUW on Facebook](#) for information and updates. Have an event coming up? Share it with us!

New STEM Events

May 21 Tech Savvy
 AAUW Bluegrass (KY) Branch

- May 21 Tech Savvy
AAUW Honolulu (HI) Branch
- June 4 Tech Savvy
AAUW Bradenton (FL) Branch
- June 4 Tech Savvy
AAUW Erie (PA) Branch
- June 4 Tech Savvy
AAUW Omaha (NE) Branch

Want to see your branch program in the next issue of *Spotlight on STEM*? Please let us know! E-mail the event name, date, description, and a link to where readers can learn more to stem@aauw.org. Your news makes our newsletter shine.

NEW STEM RESOURCES

Take a look at upcoming educational resources, STEM conferences, and the latest research on diversity in STEM.

ArtsWave and the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative have teamed up to create Cincy Arts + STEM, a website that connects community teachers, parents, and young people with creative learning programs. [Learn more.](#)

The STEM Forum and Expo hosted by the National Science Teachers Association is happening July 27–29, 2016, in Denver. This event gathers STEM educators, representatives, and administrators from around the world to exhibit and share tools that further STEM education in schools and communities. [Register online.](#)

The National STEM Video Game Challenge, inspired by President Barack Obama’s Educate to Innovate initiative, is designed to help young people transition from video game players to video game designers. From now until August 15, middle and high school students can apply individually or in teams by submitting their original, playable game designs. [Encourage a young STEM lover you know to take the challenge.](#)

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, a program of the Society for Science and the Public, is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition. Approximately 1,700 high school students from more than 75 countries, regions, and territories will have the opportunity to showcase their independent research and compete for \$4 million in prizes. [Check out the upcoming dates and](#)

[locations to learn more.](#)

The Afterschool Alliance has released a special report on after-school STEM learning. *Full STEM Ahead: Afterschool Programs Step Up as Key Partners in STEM Education* takes a comprehensive look at how parents view STEM after-school programming and whether those programs are in demand, accessible, and effective. Download the [full report](#) or the [executive summary](#), and check out the interactive [national and state findings](#) and [accompanying infographics](#).

Want to learn how to code? Check out these [10 free online resources to get started](#).

Looking for more? Follow [@AAUW](#) on Twitter for the latest STEM news.