Ignite Girls’ Interest in STEM through Role Models
Stories & Strategies from the NGCP’s FabFems Project

January 9, 2014
#FabFems
Agenda

• Why Role Models?
• FabFems Project Overview
• Recruiting Role Models
• Engaging Role Models Effectively
• Questions and Discussion
The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) brings together organizations that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
Project Goals

1. Maximize access to shared resources within projects and with public and private sector organizations and institutions interested in **expanding girls’ participation in STEM**.

2. **Strengthen capacity** of existing and evolving projects by sharing **exemplary practice research** and program models, outcomes and products.

3. **Use the leverage of a network** or collaboration of individual girl-serving STEM programs to create the **tipping point for gender equity in STEM**.
National Network of Collaborative Teams
NGCP Project Impact

- **33,583** participants served in **236** mini-grants completing activities
- **45,181,614** visits to the NGCP Web site in 5 years
- **18,300** practitioners have been served through events and webinars
- **7,821,024** girls are served indirectly by NGCP by having their leaders trained in the philosophy, knowledge, and methods of NGCP
NGCP Program Directory
Million Women Mentors

https://www.millionwomenmentors.org
The FabFems Project

Share your past. Spark a future.
Changing Perceptions About STEM Careers

FabFems Website

FabFems is a national, online, searchable directory of women STEM professionals interested in outreach to girls.

Audience:
• Role Models
• Girl-Serving Programs
• Parents and Girls

www.fabfems.org
Search for FabFems

- Keyword
- City
- State
- Interest
- Ethnicity
- Student Age
- Field of Work
- Type of Visit
- Affiliations

Find a Role Model

Enter your search criteria on the right to find a role model. Visit the Resources page to learn more about facilitating role model experiences.

- Naila Al Hasan
  Richland, Washington
  Engineering
  Ethnicity: Asian
  Type of Visit: After-school visit

- Allison Allain
  Westminster, Colorado
  Engineering
  Ethnicity: White
  Type of Visit: After-school visit

- Kara Allen

Filter Results

Keyword:
City:
State:
Interest:
Ethnicity:
Student Age:
Field of Work:
Type of Visit:

Share your past. Spark a future.
# A FabFems Profile

## Role Model Profile

**Ashlee Ford Versypt**  
Dorchester, MA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Work</th>
<th>Chemical Engineering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pharmacology, Computational Science</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postdoctoral Researcher</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Oklahoma</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BS, MS, and PhD in Chemical Engineering. Minors in Computational Science &amp; Engineering and Mathematics</td>
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</table>

| Education Level     | PhD                                           |

**Profile Biography**

I grew up in a small rural town in Oklahoma. Most of the people in my family are teachers, nurses, mechanics, farmers, or factory workers. I wanted to do something different. I was interested in science and math and having an intellectually stimulating career that challenged me and benefited society. My high school counselors and teachers didn’t know much about STEM career paths other than becoming a doctor, but they were great at referring me to science...
Contact a FabFem

Role Model Profile

Emily Almaraz
San Diego, CA

Field of Work: Mechanical Engineering
Company: Solar Turbines Inc.
Staff Design Engineer
Education: University of California, San Diego
Mechanical Engineering
Education Level: Bachelors

Profile Biography: Hello! My name is Emily and I am a Design Engineer at Solar Turbines Inc. in San Diego, CA. I grew up in Orange County and attended an arts high school where I studied Creative Writing. My favorite class in high school was physics and I was thinking of majoring in that, but my physics teacher suggested that I major in mechanical engineering since I did not want to go into research. I
Online Safety: Screening FabFems

- **Each** profile is reviewed by FabFems staff before publishing on the website.
- All applicants are checked out on the National Sex Offender Registry.
- All applicants go through an email verification check.
- All content, including text, images, links and videos are reviewed by FabFems staff for appropriateness before publishing.
Using the Directory

- One-on-one interactions between FabFems and girls
- Organizations recruiting mentors for their youth programs
- In-person as well as online interactions possible
Role Model Story #1

Computer Engineer at the U.S. Navy Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Waldorf, MD
Recruiting Role Models
• FabFems Directory
• Museums, zoos, observatories
• Universities and community colleges
• Large and small local businesses (diversity and outreach departments)
• Society of Women Engineers
• Engineers Without Borders
• Government science agencies
Role Model Story #2

Program Manager at Microsoft Seattle, WA
Effective Interactions
Preparing for the Visit

• Know your audience in advance
• Plan what you are going to say and what activities you are going to do
• Be prepared for the unexpected
• Have fun!
Be Prepared to Talk about Failure

Share examples not only of when you were successful, but also when you were **not successful**.

Demonstrate that struggle is part of the process of being successful in STEM!
Techbridge Role Model Toolkit & Guide

Recipe for Success

- Be Personal and Passionate
- Make it Interactive with a Hands-on Activity
- Explain Why Your Work Matters
- Fill a Gap with Academic and Career Guidance
Resources for Girls and Role Models

- Women@NASA
- Women@Energy
- Engineer Your Life
- Engineer Girl
- SciGirls
- Techbridge
- NGCP Program Directory
- NCWIT Mentoring in a Box
Stay Connected!

• Join the FabFems Directory, invite others to join
• Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter @FabFems
• Stay connected by signing up for the NGCP e-newsletter

Questions? Contact: Nimisha Ghosh Roy
nghoshroy@edlabgroup.org