

Girls in STEM: A Piedmont Triad Initiative

Brought to you by Wake Forest School of Medicine's Center of Excellence for Research, Teaching and Learning with funding provided by the Student STEM Enrichment Program at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund

What is the Girls in STEM: A Piedmont Triad Initiative?

Wake Forest School of Medicine's Center of Excellence for Research, Teaching and Learning (CERTL) has created a comprehensive STEM satellite program for a cohort of female middle school students who attend Davidson County and Surry County Schools. This partnership will deliver a STEM-based yearlong program through an inquiry-based learning (IBL) model that aligns with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, including a weeklong summer intensive STEM experience and a yearlong follow-up program. The follow-up program consists of two visits to the Bowman Gray Center for Medical Education in Winston Salem, North Carolina for a fall and a spring summit, once a month after school activities, and quarterly progress report meetings with their school administrators to monitor their academic progress and guide them toward more rigorous STEM-related courses. The fall and spring summits will connect student participants with female STEM professionals and faculty from Wake Forest University and Wake Forest School of Medicine. An after school STEM activity will take place once a month in each of the partnering schools led by their female STEM teachers from the summer experience component. A yearlong project-based learning component will be launched during the summer experience that is continued throughout the school year. The project component will culminate at the end of the school year with a presentation to parents, teachers and administrators, and CERTL staff. This program will serve 20 female middle school students from each of the identified school districts to improve their knowledge of STEM-based content and improve their academic performance in order for them to enroll in higher-level STEM classes and possibly pursue careers in STEM-related fields.

