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SCIENCE FAIR MARKS FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF GIRLS STEM EDUCATION CAMP

CHARLOTTE, N.C. August 10, 2018 — Women make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce, but hold less than a quarter of the country's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs. Sandy Marshall was determined to help close this gender gap when she started a STEM camp just for girls out of her guesthouse in Charlotte. Five years later, Project Scientist is a six-week summer program held on six university campuses in North Carolina and California.

Project Scientist celebrated its five-year anniversary on Friday, August 10 at Johnson and Wales, one of the site hosts for the summer camp. The event also marked the final day of camp for more than 75 girls, all of whom presented their "Tech Maker and Creator Lab" projects to parents and supporters.

Developmentally-tiered projects started with a "Beebot" that taught coding to preschoolers and kindergarteners, progressing all the way to the teen group's handcrafted "Operation" games incorporating coding and electronic circuits.

Each camper got a chance to present her "declaration," a statement about her future professional plans starting with the words "I will" to encourage persistence and focus. Future plans included dolphin trainer, astronaut, Olympic athlete and cake maker.

Project Scientist Founder and CEO Sandy Marshall also unveiled a video celebrating the nonprofit organization's partnership with founding sponsor Duke Energy. The video is available at vimeo.com/282697354.

Duke Energy hosted a reception following the project presentations, where Monique Rodriguez took the opportunity to speak about her daughter Jessica's experience as a five-year Project Scientist camper.

"Jessica has been exposed to so many different career choices that I would have never considered for her or myself," said Rodriguez. "She is already beginning to think about her future at such a young age. She is dreaming! I didn't have the opportunity to dream. I was too busy trying to survive. My daughter's future looks brighter and I owe Project Scientist for pouring into her life."

To support more girls like Jessica and inspire the next generation of STEM Superstars, make a donation to Project Scientist today at www.projectscientist.org/join-us/donate. Your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Google Fiber! To keep up to date on the Project Scientist news and events sign up for the newsletter at www.projectscientist.org/stay-in-touch.

PHOTO CREDIT: Deborah Young Studio

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

1. Project Scientist campers presented their projects to parents and supporters on August 10 at Johnson and Wales University
2. Project Scientist offers STEM education programs to girls ages 4-12.
3. Campers are grouped by age and work on developmentally tiered STEM projects.
4. L-R: Project Scientist Founder and CEO Sandy Marshall, Duke Energy Community Affairs Manager Dominique Johnson, five-year Project Scientist camper and rising seventh grader Kourtney, Project Scientist Board Chair and Bank of America Community Relations Manager Erika Duncan.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About Project Scientist

Project Scientist is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, coaching and advocating for girls and women with a passion, aptitude and talent for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Core programs include Project Scientist Academy, a six-week summer science intensive for girls ages 4-12 held on university campuses in North Carolina and California. All programs are research-based and 40% of services are scholarship-based. More information is available at www.projectscientist.org.

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