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AAUW-OML Announces Girls4STEM Webinars

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The American Association of University Women Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) is offering a new webinar series specifically for high school girls called Girls4STEM. This series introduces women working in STEM fields to girls who at this stage of their lives are making choices about what courses to take in high school and considering potential careers.

Finding opportunities to learn from working professionals can be challenging, however this program is a wonderful, accessible way to learn about a STEM career and to ask questions of real women, telling the story of their journeys to their careers. They share insights on their specific area of study as well as their experiences in pursuit of a career in historically male-dominated fields.

These webinars are a wonderful way to maintain interest in STEM fields and boost girls' confidence in pursuing these careers.

The first webinar, "Refinery 101," will be at 3 p.m. Nov. 8 featuring Christy Tormey, BSE in mechanical engineering from Duke. After an internship at Chevron oil refinery, she was hired by them and is now an operations specialist. Find out what a day in the life of a refinery engineer is like. Her favorite part of the day? "Suiting up in Tyvek and a respirator and climbing through columns and furnaces."

The next webinar is "Engineering with a Purpose" with Adrienne Johnson on Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. Johnson is a civil engineer who earned an award in 2017 for designing a "Net Zero Building," and was named one of the "Top 20 Women to Watch" by Engineering Systems Magazine. On Dec. 8, Deb Martin, BS in microbiology and a Certified Industrial Hygienist, will present a webinar on her career from the lab to taking safe and sustainable consumer products to market. She will be followed on Jan. 13 by Dr. Rosalie McGurk, astrophysicist, who will talk about her education and career path and how to make a spectroscope.

The webinars are free. This series is made possible through a grant from the Bettelheim Family Foundation. To learn about the specifics of this new program for girls, including the profiles of the presenters, and to register for a webinar, visit the AAUW-OML website at oml-ca.aauw.net. You can also go to Girls4STEM Instagram page.

The American Association of University Women advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch sponsors STEM-related community outreach projects, including Tech Trek and the STEM Conference at Saint Mary's College for middle school girls and Girls4STEM for high school girls.

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