



Sponsored by AAUW of Minnesota and the AAUW St. Cloud Area Branch

Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to attract girls in fifth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform their families about STEM education and careers.

AAUW has undertaken research focused on the advancement of women since 1889, much of it has been about women and girls in education. Several research reports released in the last 15 years have been influential in the establishment and maturing of the Tech Savvy program.



The initial idea for the Tech Savvy program came from the 2000 AAUW research report of the same name. The Tech Savvy report found that schools needed to change the way information technology is used, applied, and taught in the nation's classrooms. Tech Savvy presents the findings of the AAUW Educational Foundation Commission on Technology, Gender, and Teacher Education.

Although the program focuses on exciting girls about STEM, Tech Savvy also includes an important program for parents. This component encourages families to reinforce the girls' interest in STEM.

## Save the Date!

---

On **October 27, 2018** AAUW in collaboration with St. Cloud State University, the assistance of the College of St. Benedict and support from local businesses the Tech Savvy conference will be held on the SCSU campus. 150 girls and a member of each of their families are planned to attend this exciting and potentially life changing event.

## Tech Savvy for Girls

---

The day begins with hands-on workshops in various math and science fields. In 2017, workshops included: "Help Us Solve the Robbery at Maeve's Diner", "Shine a Light on Solar Energy", "3D Printing and Virtual Reality", "Wondrous Web Page Design", "What's the Buzz about Mosquitos and Evolution" and "Stars in our Eyes: A Journey through the Northern Night Sky.

The second portion of the day focuses on "savvy skills." These are skills girls can use in their daily lives, such as critical thinking, sharing opinions, public speaking, and knowledge about financial literacy, negotiation, and interviewing.

(Please note that we are early in the conference planning process and are currently soliciting workshop facilitators and speakers. The above workshop titles are provided as examples.)



# Tech Savvy for Parents

---



The parents' program features speakers on STEM education and careers, encouraging parents to ask questions about these fields. The parents program may also include hands-on activities. In 2017, this program included: "The Power of Positivity", an Industry Panel Discussion and a College Panel discussion.

During the final portion of the day, parents and girls reconvene to hear from a keynote speaker relevant to the theme of the conference. In the past, Tech Savvy has showcased speakers from Blattner Energy and other high-profile corporations.

## Presenters/Panelists and Volunteers

---

Professional women and students in STEM support the conference in a variety of roles. These women provide crucial opportunities for the next generation of girls in STEM to meet real women who are succeeding in these educational and professional fields.

Spanish and Somali translators will be available for both students and parents.

## The AAUW of Minnesota is the Fiscal Agent

---

As fiscal agent AAUW of Minnesota:

- Collects all donations to the Tech Savvy program.
- AAUW of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. A timely acknowledgement suitable for tax purposes will be provided for all contributions.

## We need your Help

---

We've raised approximately 50% of our fundraising goal and need an additional \$8,000 to provide an outstanding and motivating program for area girls. To partially offset expenses, girls and parents will be charged \$10 each. These nominal amounts are intended to ensure that attendance at the event is valued but that the cost does not represent a significant financial barrier. Hardship scholarships will be available. To help defray the overall costs, we are turning to generous local donors to help us reach our financial goal.

We are hoping that you will consider a contribution to the Tech Savvy program for the benefit of fifth through ninth grade girls, who are beginning to consider future careers.

Thanks for your consideration.

AAUW MN State President and Tech Savvy St. Cloud Committee Chair  
Jan Bensen [bjjb72@gmail.com](mailto:bjjb72@gmail.com)  
320-260-5462

# More about Tech Savvy, by AAUW

---

## History and Founder

Tech Savvy was founded in Buffalo, New York ten years ago by AAUW member, and chemical and biomedical engineer, Tamara Brown and members of the AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch. Dedicated volunteers and community members have helped Tech Savvy become an incredible success in Buffalo, growing the program to include SAT preparation for girls in 10th grade, a program for high school girls and a new summer program. The community in Buffalo has truly embraced this program as well as Tamara Brown, who in 2011 was nominated by AAUW for the Champion of Change award she received from the White House for her work on Tech Savvy and other STEM mentoring efforts. This very successful program has grown every year and served over 2,000 girls and 500 parents at 22 sites last year.

## Program Model

In the Buffalo program girls select activities in math, science, and related fields from a range of hands-on options, attend workshops on STEM careers and topics, and enhance other important "Savvy Skills," such as public speaking, critical thinking and negotiation. Over the course of the day, they are empowered by their capabilities and encouraged to think about themselves not just as a young women but also as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians and computer scientists.

Female STEM practitioners act as instructors for the hands-on workshops, giving students the opportunity to interact with women who model a high degree of expertise in these fields and offers an experience that the girls may not have access to in their daily lives. Held on a college campus, Tech Savvy has enjoyed the support of the University at Buffalo for the past several years.

## Adult Program

While the girls are involved in STEM activities, a program is presented to adults on the value of STEM careers and how they will continue to be relevant and rewarding. In addition, information on academic and financial preparation for college will be provided.

## About AAUW (please visit us at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org))

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

### Research

We analyze gender equity issues in education and the workplace.

### Campus Leadership

We help shape the lives of the next generation of women leaders.

### STEM Education

We are leveling the playing field for girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

### Public Policy

We advocate for policies that advance equity for women and girls.

### Case Support

We support challenges to sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

### Educational Funding

We provide educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women.

## Example Tech Savvy Conference Schedule (from the November 4,2017 conference)

Time	Girls Program
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Check-In and Breakfast – ISELF lobby
9:30 – 9:50 AM	Welcome – Brown Hall 108
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Workshop I (allow 5-10 minutes for travel time to Workshop II)
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshop II (allow 5-10 minutes for travel time to Workshop III)
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Workshop III
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Lunch (with adults, presenters, panelists, and invited speaker) – Brown Hall 108
2:00 – 3:00 PM	College Student Panel – Brown Hall 108
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Closing (with adults) – Brown Hall 108
Time	Adult Program
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Check-In and Breakfast – ISELF lobby
9:30 – 9:50 AM	Welcome – Brown Hall 108
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Helping Girls Grow with STEM: Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines – ISELF 110
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	College Panel – ISELF 110
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Workshop Observation
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Lunch (with girls, presenters, panelists, and invited speaker) – Brown Hall 108
2:00 – 3:00 PM	College Student Panel – Brown Hall 108
3:00 – 3:30PM	Closing (with girls) – Brown Hall 108

## Additional Photos from the 2017 Conference

Visit the following You Tube link for an overview of the conference: [https://youtu.be/BIS\\_BMEx4h8](https://youtu.be/BIS_BMEx4h8)

