



For Immediate Release

Friday, July 29, 2016

For More Information:

Lauri Bonnell, Young Women's College Prep
lbonnell@youngwomenscollegeprep.org
585-305-5450

MEDIA ALERT

Young Women's College Prep Launches New STEM Program to Help Close the Tech Gender Gap and Encourage More Girls to Follow in STEM Educational and Career Paths

RIT engineering dean will speak to students about importance of STEM education for women

**WHEN: Monday, August 1, 2016
11 a.m.**

WHAT: Young Women's College Prep will launch its new STEM program at a welcome reception for its ninth-grade Summer Bridge program. The event will launch the first year of the school's innovative yearlong STEM program. The new program, a partnership between AT&T and RIT, will kick off on Monday with more than 25 rising ninth-grade students participating in hands-on engineering and forensic science activities with RIT's Collegiate Science & Technology Entry program at the weeklong immersive sleep-away camp.

Students, parents and staff will gather for the program's kickoff event, where guest speakers from the Rochester area will welcome them to the campus. Dr. Doreen Edwards, the new dean of RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, will discuss how STEM education can help female students be successful in their professional careers and the importance of reducing the significant gender gap in STEM industries.

The Summer Bridge program aims to create interactive and fun ways for students to prepare for their return to the Young Women's College Prep Charter School. The new program is supported by AT&T and hosted by Rochester Institute of Technology. For more information, visit youngwomenscollegeprep.org and facebook.com/YoungWomensCollegePrep.

The new yearlong STEM program at YWCP in partnership with AT&T and RIT was designed to encourage more women to study STEM related disciplines and pursue careers in technology, an industry that is traditionally male-dominant. A recent report highlighted the fact that girls in urban settings often lack the family and community support systems to help them succeed in nontraditional female fields and pointed out that girls are highly motivated to make a difference in their world and is why STEM education in urban schools is so important. It also aligns with the White House's initiative to increase participation of girls in STEM education and career paths, women in STEM jobs earn 33 percent more than those in non-STEM occupations and experience a smaller wage gap relative to men, and increasing opportunities for women in these fields is an important step towards realizing greater economic success and equality for women across the board.

WHERE: Lobby of Grace Watson Hall
Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623

SPEAKERS: Duffy Palmer, chair, YWCP Board of Trustees
Erika Duthiers, YWCP Board of Trustee member and attorney at RIT
Dr. Doreen Edwards, dean, RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering

Kevin Hanna, director of external affairs, AT&T
Cynthia Kolko, marketing manager, Summit Federal Credit Union
Elissa Nesbitt, manager, Corporate Public Relations and Community Relations at the Xerox Foundation

About Young Women's College Prep

Young Women's College Prep Charter School of Rochester (YWCP) offers young women from the city of Rochester the opportunity to learn in a single-gender environment, free from stereotypes, where a strong focus is placed on preparation for college enrollment and graduation. High expectations and evidence of concrete results define the student's academic experience. Educators commit to, and thrive upon, sharing effective practices within and beyond the school building. YWCP partners with families and instills in each student a sense of community, responsibility and ethics. For more information, visit youngwomenscollegeprep.org and facebook.com/YoungWomensCollegePrep.

#