Girls Inc. holds annual SMART summit

LYNN - Girls Incorporated of Lynn held their eighth annual SMART Girls Summit Wednesday for middle school girls at their High Street headquarters.

The SMART (Science, Math And Relevant Technology) Girls Summit is aimed at increasing the interest and participation in science, math and technology while building awareness about the wide range of career options available in these fields.

The girls attended several workshops, which were geared toward showing girls that math, science and technology can be fun and exciting through hands-on experiments. They included learning to identify a bug on a Web page and fixing the bug using HTML code, oil spill engineering, Internet safety and financial literacy. The keynote speaker of the event was Dr. Christine Ortiz, associate professor of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT. Girls also met with and viewed a presentation from Annelise Mesler of the PBS Design Squad.

The workshops were facilitated by successful women throughout the region including Lenora Day, quality engineering manager at RSA; Alyssa Barbetta, geotechnical engineer at Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.; Tammy O'Brien Donahue, financial advisor for MetLife; Katelyn LeClerc, director of Internet safety for What's What; Sara Gutierrez, research scientist at Millipore Corporation; Andrea Cox, senior engineering manager at GE; Kerry Sullivan, mechanical design engineer at GE, and Kirstin Bunker, a UMass Boston graduate student.

"We are so very happy to have these extraordinary women share their time and talent with young girls and to encourage them to pursue their interests in science, math, engineering or technology," director of the middle school programs Lena Crowley said. "The U.S. Labor Statistics indicate that nearly 75 percent of tomorrow's jobs will require use of computers, while fewer than 33 percent of participants in computer courses and related activities are girls."

The summit ended with a game of trivia. Natalie Hebshe from WGBH Design Squad distributes prizes to students who won. Item photo / Owen O'Rourke