



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mentor Fireworks: 22 States Stepping Up with 140,000 New Commitments to Mentor Girls and Young Women in STEM Skills

The National Girls Collaborative Project and Million Women Mentors to Announce Major Commitments This Week to Elevate Girls in STEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 28th – This week, the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), a founding partner of the Million Women Mentors (MWM) initiative, will announce over 100,000 new STEM mentor commitments from over 20 states. The goal of the movement is to support the engagement of one million mentors in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professions over the next four years, to collectively increase the interest and confidence of girls and young women in these areas.

The 22 states that will announce commitments include Alaska, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia. The Texas Girls Collaborative has already made a pledge of 20,000 mentors. Additionally there will be pledges made by the States of Georgia, Oklahoma and National 4-H Council unveiled. Each mentor will commit to a minimum of 20 hours and the initiative has five suggested mentor pathways. For more information on the pledge please visit www.MillionWomenMentors.org.

“We salute the state-level leadership and know how hard they have worked to submit the mentoring pledges,” said Edie Fraser, CEO of STEMconnector® and Million Women Mentors. “Adding these new pledges to the 93,000 already made through our official site MillionWomenMentors.org takes us to the 200,000-mark – which is tremendous since our 4 year initiative only launched in January, 2014.”

In light of the dismal diversity and STEM workforce statistics from Silicon Valley’s tech companies across the nation, young women need more role models and guidance on how to prepare and thrive in a STEM career. “We did some research with MWM’s partner My College Options and found that out of 368,000 high school girls interested in STEM, only 4% were encouraged by a mentor”, says Julie Kantor Chief Partnership Officer, STEMconnector. “Each day we map out



Listed below is the schedule of state by state announcements:

All times listed are Eastern Time Zone

TUESDAY, July 29, 2014	
11:00 AM	Kentucky
1:00 PM	MAGiC: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington D.C.
2:00 PM	Tennessee
4:00 PM	Georgia
WEDNESDAY, July 30, 2014	
11:00 AM	North Carolina
1:00 PM	Montana
2:00 PM	NGCP MWM Mentor Fireworks Webinar and Iowa
4:00 PM	Pacific NW: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Washington
THURSDAY, July 31, 2014	
11:00 AM	Pennsylvania
1:00 PM	New York
2:00 PM	Texas
FRIDAY, August 1, 2014	
11:00 AM	California
1:00 PM	Southern New England: Massachusetts, Rhode Island
2:00 PM	Oregon



About the National Girls Collaborative Project- The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is a network of individuals, programs, and organizations sharing resources and collaborating to better engage girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The NGCP facilitates collaboration between 12,800 organizations (who serve 8.35 million girls and 4.5 million boys) through their network of 31 Collaboratives, serving 39 states. Through this network of collaboratives and initiatives like the FabFems Project (a national directory of female STEM role models), the NGCP is bringing together organizations throughout the United States that inform and encourage girls to pursue careers in STEM.