

Notre Dame School of Milwaukee Students Heading to CyberGirlz Day Camp at UW-Whitewater

Northwestern Mutual and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater partnered to send thirty 7th-grade students from Notre Dame School of Milwaukee to CyberGirlz, a technology day camp hosted on UWW's campus on Friday, Dec. 4th. The day-long program was designed specifically for girls interested in learning more about computer technology in a fun, hands-on environment.

"This was an exciting opportunity for our students to visit a college campus and get an inside look into the ever-expanding world of information technology," said David D'Antonio, middle school assistant principal at Notre Dame School of Milwaukee. "They learned from university instructors, students, and IT professionals as they plan and create their own digital scrapbooks."

According to Northwestern Mutual's Nancy Hinneberg, lead project manager – enterprise projects and support, supporting educational programs focused on STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—is an important initiative for the company

"We take great pride in supporting STEM education at all grade levels," says Hinneberg. "It's important to reach out to kids before high school, though. When they're still in middle school, they're more open to new things, and can start to make the class choices that prepare them for more advanced work later on."

Meeting the growing demand for IT professionals will demand that more students—particularly those from currently underrepresented groups—be attracted to the field. The CyberGirlz day camp addresses that need in two ways: by focusing on girls and by including students from Notre Dame School, which largely serves Hispanic families.

"We need more students to take an interest in technology," Hinneberg notes. "Targeted programs like this can help."

The University of Wisconsin – Whitewater started the CyberGirlz camp in the summer of 2008. The Notre Dame School of Milwaukee's trip to the camp on Dec. 4th was sponsored by Northwestern Mutual. The University also holds a CyberGirlz day camp and overnight camp for 9th and 10th grade girls called CyberHigh annually in July.

For more information on the camps, visit <http://www.uww.edu/techcamps>.

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