

**WITH VIDEO: Girls tackle technology at camp**

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**By DIANA DILLABER MURRAY Of The Oakland Press**

Girls from ages 9 to 13 showed off their technological skills by demonstrating robots they created and programmed at a special camp at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

They finished up the weeklong technology camp Friday. It was put on by the Michigan Council of Women In Technology Foundation, which started operating the camp six years ago to encourage more girls to go into careers in technology, where women are underrepresented.

Camp Infinity gives 40 girls from school districts around the Detroit metropolitan area the opportunity to meet professionals in technology fields, develop websites, learn about robotics and video game design, and participate in various other technology activities.

The girls are introduced to technology as fun and rewarding, which organizers see as a strategy they hope will encourage the young women to consider technology-related pursuits later in life and reduce the gender disparity gap in Michigan's information technology jobs.

"Girls now grow up with technology, so it's counterintuitive that so few are pursuing it as a career choice," said Marcy Klevorn, president of Michigan Council of Women In Technology Foundation and global director of IT operations for Ford Motor Co.

"Interactive events like this help them see how interesting, hands-on and rewarding technology can be."

Campers paid only a \$30 registration fee and had to have a letter of support from a teacher or school representative.

"The girls who attend are energized by the experience and they leave with technical skills they'll continue to develop. It makes them realize that they're not only good at this type of work, they can also have a lot of fun doing it."

The Society for Information Management's Detroit chapter is this year's main sponsor. Volunteers from major Detroit area companies and corporations facilitated the camp and helped students relate their camp experiences to what they might do in a future career.

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