



Hampton Branch

July 20, 2024

As winter began to shed its cloak of cold days and indoor activities, the branch began addressing its objectives for the spring. In March, the branch was made aware of a “period desert” situation at a local middle school. Members donated enough personal hygiene items to create 25 sani-packs, which were makeup pouches stuffed with sanitary napkins, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, deodorant, , tooth paste, and a tooth brush. The packs were delivered to the school in April. An invitation to attend the branch’s STEM Workshop was extended during the visit. Much to our surprise, three teachers and 12 girls attended.



Dr, Sarita Gregory (left), Branch Programs Vice Prsident, and Joan Jenkins, Branch Secretary (right), present the box of sani-packs To the school Resource Officer and Vice Principal as femaile students Gather in appreciation and acceptance of the items.

Spring is the time of year when we see the fruits of our labor blossom into a thing of beauty. Such was the case for this year’s STEM Worshop for middle and high school students. It sprouted new buds – boys! Junior Naval ROTC students from Green Run High School were our escorts and aides for the day.

Smartly dressed in their green shirts and khaki pants, they lead the flow of students from one work session to another, lifted heavy loads, and escorted the girls to lunch. They ensured that each classroom had what was needed for it's session and then participated in the engineering workshop, designing and constructing bridges out of cardboard, along side the girls.

The workshop was held at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia, on April 27, 2024. The theme was "A Day in the Life of STEM Women." It began with a continental breakfast followed by a panel discussion. The panel consisted of five STEMist - an engineer, a mathematician, a chemist, a nurse, and a meteorologist. Two of the women held doctorate degrees and one was a PhD candidate. Each presenter shared her background and why she chose her career field. Simultaneous work sessions were conducted by the STEMist in the morning and afternoon. Lunch was served between the sessions. After the last session, the panel format was resumed for a question and answer session with the participants.



(left to right) Dr, Brenda Ferguson, engineer; Ariana Brown, PhD Candidate in Mathematics; Ashley Pope, Oceanographer; Dr. Pilanda Watkins-Curry, Chemist, and Tavia Hunt, RN

After the formal dismissal, junior and senior high school girls and parents joined Dr. Tonya Brown, branch STEM Chair, for a a walking tour of Christopher Newport College.

The workshop received favorable reviews from parents, teachers, and friends who came out to assist with the event. We offer a special "thank you" to Cittenden Middle School for their attendance; and to Cmdr. Brown for bringing both the boys and girls JNROTC stuents from Green Run High School.



Cmdr. Curtis Bown, USN, Ret., Instructor (far right), with the Junior Naval ROTC, Green Run High School

And, to the Branch STEM Coordinator and moderator for the panel discussions, Dr Tonya Btown, congratulations on creating and coordinating such an exciting and informative event.



Dr. Tonya Williams Brown, STEM Chair

More pictures of the workshop can be found at the end of this newsletter.

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, members attend “Embracing Equity, Empowering Minds: The 70 Year Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education – Reflecting on the US Supreme Court Case that Desegregated Education and the Virginians Who Lead Then and Now.” The forum was presented by Hampton University and Virginians for Reconciliation. Noted speakers on the program were Darrell K. Williams, President of Hampton University; Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares; Congressman Bobby Scott, former Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell; Virginia Senator Mamie Locke; and Dr. Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff, Virginia Department of Education

Branch business meetings were held in May and June.



- [Julu 1, 2024,](#) State Board & Branch Presidents Meeting (zoom) 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- [September 15, 2024](#) State Mini Grant reports due
- September 27-29, 2024 AAUW Stlsntic Regional Conference, Glen Allen, VA

Carolyn Stewart
Co-Editor

Anjanette Sheppard Taylor
Co-Editor

MISSION: *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: *There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.*
