

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 7/15/2013

kkind@girlsincislandcity.org

Contact: Kristina Kind

510-521-1743 ext. 225

ALAMEDA – On August 1, 2013, 16 teens will be the first to complete Girls Inc. of the Island City’s three-year science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Eureka! program. Eureka! is a three-year, national program girls begin in middle school to explore career and post-secondary education options for their futures. The program combines an intensive 4-week summer program that focuses on hands-on activities in STEM, sports, and personal development with educational and experimental opportunities during the school year.

Participants conclude the Eureka! program when they complete a paid, 4-week long job shadow experience in the third and final summer of the program. Job shadow sponsors are Alameda Hospital, Alameda Municipal Power, Alameda Orthopedic & Sports Therapy, Alameda Pediatric Dentistry, Alameda Police Department, Harbor Bay Club, HKIT Architects, Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist Tracy Zollinger, L.Ac., Lilac Dress Boutique, Old Navy, Park Centre Animal Hospital, Rockwall Wine Company, and the office of District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

In an effort to empower girls to see themselves as an important part of the future workforce, job shadow sponsors provide invaluable career exposure. Job shadow sponsors allow a Eureka! participant to shadow their work, they teach a Eureka! participant tasks associated with the sponsor's position, and they introduce a Eureka! participant to females working in many nontraditional and STEM-related fields.

U.S. Department of Labor workforce projections for 2018 show that nine of the ten fastest-growing occupations that require at least a bachelor's degree will require significant scientific or mathematical training. Additionally, many science and engineering occupations are predicted to grow faster than the average rate for all occupations. Some of the largest increases will be in engineering- and computer-related fields in which women currently hold one-quarter or fewer positions.

On July 8th as Girls Inc. of the Island City's inaugural Eureka! group prepared for job shadowing internships in their third and final summer of programming, a new group of middle school girls began the three-year program. To learn more, please visit www.girlsincislandcity.org.

###

Girls Inc. of the Island City is an affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Inc. of the Island City has provided the only program in Alameda designed specifically for girls. Our programs “fill in the gap” on issues that parents and schools do not always have the time or resources to cover. We provide more than 25,000 hours of programming each year to girls ages 6 to 18. At Girls Inc. of the Island City, girls and teens are challenged to explore science, math and computers, sports and health, friendships and conflict resolution, as well as to examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world.

We also offer a licensed childcare service called Alameda Island Kids for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bay Farm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, Otis, and Paden. For more information about Alameda Island Kids, call (510) 521-1743 ext. 202 or visit our website at www.girlsincislandcity.org.

###