

2019



Girls Can!



GIRLS CAN! 2019



The numbers and evaluations are tallied! It was another successful Girls Can! event! Every workshop was rated very highly by the girls, even if they didn't choose it. And the parents said that their workshops were very informative and helpful!

We must begin with a thank you to our official partner for GIRLS CAN! Doña Ana Community College provided the venue for this event complete with IT and janitorial services. We used almost all available spaces on the campus to give participants a real campus experience. Thank you to DACC staff and faculty!



Your donations and volunteer efforts supported:

- The design, printing and distribution of **2000** brochures and invitations
- The design and purchase of GIRLS CAN! t-shirts and back bags for each participant
- **250** girls from **3** school districts in Doña Ana County (a few were home schoolers, charter school girls and parochial school girls) + **16** school counselors/teachers
- **59** girls were provided 'scholarships' to attend (funds raised provided the \$5 registration fee)
- **55** families were represented (parent workshop offered in Spanish and English) presented by DACC staff
- **20+** presenters (many brought members of their staff/employees to help with their presentations)
- **190** volunteers from:
 - AAUW Las Cruces members
 - NMSU student groups: NSSLHA, WiSTEM, SWE, AAUW, YWIC
 - DACC staff
 - Las Cruces Soroptimist members
 - Federally Employed Women members
 - Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine students
 - And other professional women from the community



AND...

- We purchased food and water then packed and distributed **250** breakfast bags containing water, cheese stick, breakfast bar and tangelos
- We purchased and served coffee and goodies for the parent workshop and volunteers
- We provided and distributed GIRLS CAN! t-shirt and back bag for each girl attending
- We assisted with the cost of 8 buses (Hatch and Gadsden)
- We raised funds from AAUW members, private individuals and **11** local businesses/ clubs/associations! All businesses/clubs/associations were displayed on our GIRLS CAN! banner, and a list of donors was placed in each adult's back bag. We are grateful to all our partners!

THANK YOU SO MUCH for donating your resources, time and energy! The girls and their families, counselors and teachers, all left happy and energized, seeing that "Girls Can!" be anything they want to be!

You can see what a great community project this is and that it takes a lot of resources to organize, prepare and put on this wonderful event! We're looking forward to next year already and hope you will too! Thank YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Londa Seiffert
Kay Brilliant
AAUW-LC Girls Can! Coordinators



Following is a copy of the purpose and rationale we use to understand and remember why we organize, set up and work to make GIRLS CAN! a part of the work of this AAUW branch. This research demands that as professional women of this county, we must lead in the efforts to improve the lives of girls and women. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about this community outreach program.



Project description: Our branch has hosted Girls Can! since 1993, holding the annual event at a middle school in Las Cruces, the state's second largest city. Over the years, program leaders incrementally improved Girls Cans! In 2015, new leaders in our branch revamped Girls Can!, initiating several changes. First, they moved the annual event to a community college campus in Las Cruces, bringing the attendees into a more academic atmosphere. They also expanded outreach into more schools throughout the county. In 2017, program leaders began offering bi-lingual workshops for the girls' families and in 2018, over 75 families showed interest in attending. In combination, these changes resulted in higher attendance and eager participants in each of the past three years.

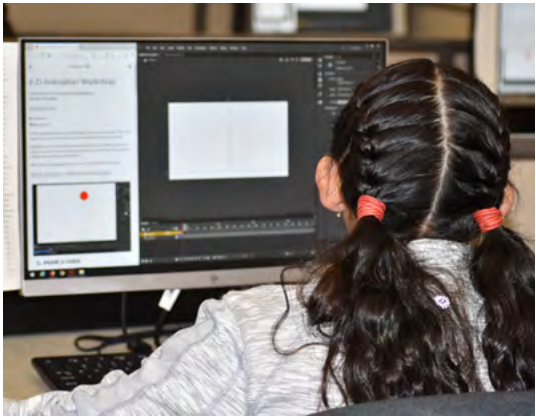
Project Goal: The project's goal is to reach deeper into our county's underserved communities, while making AAUW a household name that means equitable education for all women. We believe this approach will also help broaden our membership, attracting women who reflect our diverse and culturally rich community. With innovative branding tools, we envision making Girls Can! our chapter's centerpiece, coalescing members behind a united community purpose. Equipping our members with appropriate tools, we will reach out through multiple venues across the county.

We propose to build upon our current Girls Can! program, which brings 6th grade girls together for an annual exploratory career conference. We currently complement this activity with bi-lingual workshops for the girls' families, teaching them about college options, financial strategies, and the advantages of higher education. In 2019, we will begin an innovative series of workshops featuring the "matriculation path" for the girls and their families. These workshops will help participants learn how to move along the path from high school to an Associate Arts degree with a vocational certification and then, to a four-year college like New Mexico State University (NMSU).



Project rationale: Girls Can! focuses on 6th grade girls and their families in communities within Doña Ana County, especially in our underserved rural areas. The U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts estimates in July 2017 that our county had a higher percentage of people in poverty (25.6%) than the state (19.7%) or the nation (12.3%).¹ This census also estimates a majority of the county's population (68.5%) is Hispanic or Latino² so many of those living in poverty are minorities.

In June 2018, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count data center ranked New Mexico as last or 50th for child well-being.³ Kids Count data found twice the percentage of children living in poverty between the ages of 0 -17 in Doña Ana County (36.9%) than in the nation (18%) and even higher than in the state (30%).⁴ In 2016, median family income among households with children in New Mexico was \$47,700, compared to the nation's \$68,000; for our state's Hispanic families, it was \$38,400.⁵



Poverty in our state is often perpetuated by our teenagers. In 2016, Doña Ana County ranked 13th out of 29 counties in New Mexico for teen birth rates with 31% of girls between the ages of 15–19 giving birth; higher than the state’s 29% and the nation’s, 20%.⁶ Kids Count data from 2016 found that 7% of New Mexican teens, between the ages of 16-19, were not in school and were not high school graduates; almost twice as high as the national percentage (4%).⁷ This reflects U.S. Census data which estimates Doña Ana County has a higher percentage (21%) of people 25 years old or older who do not even have a high school degree than the state (15%) or the nation (13%).⁸

Some experts argue that role models in the home are crucial to furthering education in families. New Mexican Hispanic children living with families where the household lacks a high school diploma is higher (24%) than the state (18%), which, in turn, is higher than the nation (14%).⁹ If our high school students make it to graduation, they may be among those who lagged behind their peers. New Mexico ranks 45th out of 50 states with 29% of our high school students failing to graduate with their peers compared to the nation’s, 16%.¹⁰

Our children struggle with poverty and, according to Kids Count in 2018, their well-being is the worst in the nation. We are failing our children, especially our girls who have a high likelihood of giving birth at a young age, continuing a cycle of poverty. Through Girls Can! we strive to reach the 1,550 6th grade girls enrolled in Doña Ana County’s three public schools’ systems, most of whom are attending free/reduced lunch-eligible public schools.



Girls Can! gives them a chance to change their trajectory. It introduces them to role models and career possibilities to show them they have choices. Although we have reached hundreds of girls since 1993, we must reach more, while they are receptive and hopeful. This project also helps our branch go beyond the girls to their parents, grandparents, and guardians who are vital to truly helping embrace their dreams and goals.



References

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts. Population Estimates July 1, 2017. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/nm,donaanacountynewmexico,US/PST045217>
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 New Mexico. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being. Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2018kidscountdatabook-2018.pdf>. Page 21.
- 4 Doña Ana County. Children, ages 0-17, living in poverty. New Mexico by County. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being. Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3843-teen-birth-rate-ages-15-19?loc=33&loct=5#detailed/5/4815-4847/false/870,573,869,36,868/any/17301,17800>.
- 5 New Mexico. Median Family Income among households with children by race and ethnicity. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8782-median-family-income-among-households-with-children-by-race-and-ethnicity?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-53/false/870,573,869,36,133,35,16/4038,4040,4039,2638,2597,4758,1353/17618>
- 6 Doña Ana County. Teen Birth Rate ages 15-19. New Mexico by County. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being. Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/3843-teen-birth-rate-ages-15-19?loc=33&loct=5#detailed/5/4815-4847/false/870,573,869,36,868/any/17301,17800>.
- 7 New Mexico Teens 16-19 Not in School and Not Graduated by race. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/74-teens-ages-16-to-19-who-are-not-in-school-and-are-not-high-school-graduates-by-race?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/2/2-53/false/870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35,18/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/383,382>
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts. Population Estimates July 1, 2017. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/nm,donaanacountynewmexico,US/PST045217>
- 9 New Mexico Children in families where the household lacks a high school diploma by race and ethnicity. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7751-children-in-families-where-the-household-head-lacks-a-high-school-diploma-by-race-and-ethnicity?loc=1&loct=1#ranking/2/any/true/870/10/14939>
- 10 New Mexico High School Students Not Graduating on Time by race. 2018 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well Being. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/9538-high-school-students-not-graduating-on-time-by-race-and-ethnicity?loc=1&loct=1#ranking/2/any/true/1539/12/18713>



Girls Can 2019 Student Workshops

Below are the workshops offered at this year's conference. Girls chose two workshops and a third was assigned.

"Lego Robotics—Computer Science

NMSU Young Women in Computing"

"Making Slime"—Chemical Engineering

Martha Mitchell, Ph.D., NMSU Professor

"Puppy Shark Tank"—Create Your Own Business

Lydia Hammond, B.A., NMSU/Arrowhead "Innoventure"

"Healthy Hair and Skin are Beautiful"—Cosmetology

Tammy Valenzuela, Cosmetologist, ACE Hair Salon

"Look Inside a Squid"—Marine Biology

Michele Nishiguchi, Ph.D., NMSU Regents Professor

"Detective Who? You?"—Criminal Justice

Daria Ringo, M.A., Retired Police Detective

"What it's like and what it takes to be a Medical Doctor"—Medicine

Ponjola Coney, M.D.

"Securing Digital Communications"—Cyber Security

U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Graciela Bribiescas E.E., Oscar Perez, Ph.D.

"Create Something Fun"—Art as a Career

Tamara Woodburn, B.B.A, M.A., Art certification

"Caring for Others"—Allied Health Sciences: Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Sonography, Radiology Technician

DACC Faculty and students

"Taking Care of Our Animals"—Veterinary Medicine (2 sections)

Sarah Walley, DVM, Carol Calista, DVM and staff

"It's Out of This World"—Aerospace Engineering

Michelle B. Alba, Ph.D., Peraton/NASA

"Is Osteopathic Medical School for You?"—Osteopathic Medicine

Burrell College of Medicine students chapter of the American Medical Women's Association

"Coding with Moana"—Computer Science

NMSU Young Women in Computing

"Finding Wolves, Mice and More in the Desert"—Wildlife Biology

Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Asombro Institute

"Ear Careers: Can You Hear Me Now?"—Audiology

Allie Williams, Doctor of Audiology

"Making Medicines and More"—Pharmacy

Traci White, R.Pharm.D, Pharmacist

"Introduction to 2D Animation"—Creative Media Technology

Kathryn-Mae Eiland and Anastasia Hames, Innovative Media Research & Extension

"Making a Good First Impression"—Dentistry

Kimberly Martin, DMD, Dentist

"Designing with Plants"—Floral Design

Sabine Green and students, NMSU Plant and Environmental Science Department

"Legally Speaking..."—Law

Sharice Pacheco, Attorney at Law



Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Criminal Justice Room DAEM 219 I picked this workshop Yes ☐ No ☒

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

The constant reminder that women are amazing, and we can do anything. Being sworn as a Girls Can Deputy.

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Pharmacy Room 131 I picked this workshop Yes ☒ No ☐

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

That's there's many ways to make medicine and do more than one job

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Business Room 130 I picked this workshop Yes ☐ No ☒

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

The fact that we got to choose a problem to solve as if real world problems, then we create a business to solve the problem

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Criminal Justice Room 219 I picked this workshop Yes ☐ No ☒ (BUT I LOVED IT)

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

asking questions and getting answers or asking questions and going home with the determination that I will figure it out.

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Wildlife Biology Room 234 I picked this workshop Yes ☐ No ☒

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

Learning about the owl pellet and dissecting it.

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Law Room DAER 236 I picked this workshop Yes ☒ No ☐

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

When we were talking about how Harry Potter was better than Twilight which was advocacy

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Computer Science Room 111 I picked this workshop Yes ☐ No ☒

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

Making the robot dance to Beyonce

Girls Can! Student Survey

1. PLEASE LIST THE WORKSHOP YOU JUST ATTENDED:

Subject Medicine Room DAER 133 I picked this workshop Yes ☒ No ☐

2. HOW LONG DID THIS WORKSHOP HOLD YOUR ATTENTION?

The whole time ☒ Most of the time ☐ About half the time ☐ Less than half the time ☐

3. WHAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THAT WORKSHOP?

The coolest thing about it is watching the ultra sound and finding out blood pressure