Expanding the Young Women’s Conference (YWC) to other regions

DEEDEE ORTIZ, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, JULIE HARRIS, General Atomics, ARTURO DOMINGUEZ, SHANNON GRECO, ANDREW ZWICKER, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory — Women remain underrepresented in the science and engineering workforce, with the greatest disparities occurring in engineering and computer sciences. For 17 years, the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) has been working to change those statistics by providing a day-long conference in STEM for young women in grades 7-10, where 750+ young women to spend the day with prominent female scientists, engineers, and technology professionals. The YWC’s Attendance has tripled in size. Students travel from as far as Maryland to attend, and it is becoming evident that a single one-day event is insufficient to meet the demand. Using PPPL’s model for the YWC, and partnering with General Atomics, University of California, San Diego, the American Physical Society’s Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP), among others we will pilot a new Young Women’s Conference in STEM in San Diego, CA in 2020. This event will enable us to reach as many students in a different region of the country, with the goal of inspiring more young women to pursue their future in a STEM field.

Deedee Ortiz
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory