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Phun Physics 4 Phemales: Physics Camp for High School Girls

CHUHEE KWON, JIYEONG GU, LAURA HENRIQUEZ, California State University, Long Beach — The department of Physics and Astronomy with the department of Science Education at California State University, Long Beach hosted summer program of “Phun Physics 4 Phemales (PP4P)” during summer 2012 and summer 2013 with the support from APS public outreach program. PP4P summer camp was hosted along with a two-week summer science camp, Young Scientists Camp, which has been institutionalized for the last 14 years since 1999. More than 2,500 3rd-8th grade students and 250 teachers have participated in the program. PP4P program provided the tools and support that female high school students need to pursue careers in physics and/or science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) field. This girls-only camp created connections among the girls and built confidence. In addition PP4P program introduced students to key principles in physics by a hands-on lab environment and demonstrated the real-world social impact of physics. In summer 2012, high school girls worked on physics experimental project on electronics and in summer 2013 they worked on the mechanics. I would share our experience in this program and the impact on the female high school students.

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