

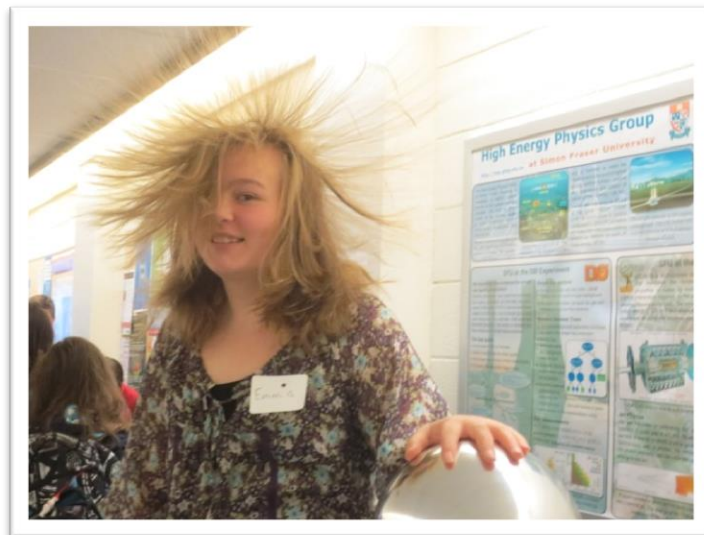
Girls Exploring Physics

This program of free workshops is run by the SFU Department of Physics for girls in grades 9 and 10. The objective is to encourage high school girls to take Physics 11 and Physics 12, and to continue to study physics at university, as many girls drop physics at this transition. WWEST Partners funding has supported the two workshops offered each year during 2011-2013.

Each half-day workshop had two hands-on physics activities: Exploring Physics Through Candy and LED's: Lighting for Efficiency and Drama. There was also a discussion of the career opportunities available to students who study physics at the university level. During the free lunch participants had the chance to interact informally with SFU women physics faculty and students, as well as with their fellow participants. Up to forty-eight girls attended each workshop, with participants travelling to Burnaby from as far away as the Sunshine Coast and Langley.

The Girls Exploring Physics website, <http://www.physics.sfu.ca/about/outreach/gep>, has a wonderful 2011 video showing many workshop activities, including marshmallow blasters and a hair-raising experience.

Participants were surveyed after each workshop to assess the success of the activities, and, for example, of the girls who attended in Fall 2013, 46/48 (96%) stated that they learned something new.



Girls Exploring Physics received financial support from WWEST Partners and from SFU's Department of Physics and Dean of Science. This workshop program will continue by partnering with SFU's Science in Action, and with continued support from the Department of Physics and the Dean of Science.