

Contact: **Dalila Springer**
973-223-1204
speakers@girlsactionnetwork.org

May 21, 2012

GIRLS ACTION NETWORK®
HOSTS CAREER EXPLORATION 101 WORKSHOP

New York, NY – On May 19, 2012, **Girls Action Network®** ("GAN") presented *Career Exploration 101: Using a Web-based Technology* — an introductory, practical, age-appropriate program for female students (grades 6-11) identifying the skills, interests and values essential to exploring and planning one's career and related educational paths — at St. Philip's Academy Computer Lab in Newark, New Jersey from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The workshop was led by GAN Technology Director, **Jerri Drakes**. Participants included students and parents from **South Orange Middle School** in South Orange, NJ, **Kent Place School** in Summit, NJ, **University Middle School** in Irvington, NJ, **Union High School** in Union, NJ, **Mount Vernon Elementary** in Irvington, NJ and **Team Academy** in Newark, NJ. The program focused on the following areas: (i) Explore and define what success means for the individual; (ii) Describe the big-picture of career development in the 21st century world of work; (iii) Explain the importance of interest exploration; (iv) Assess each participant's values, interests and skills; (v) Identify vocations in alignment with personal preferences; and (vi) Discover and discuss future education and career choices and the STEM labor market and careers. In addition to meeting and interacting with other participants, engagement in this event, allowed participants to benefit in the following ways: (i) Gain insight into personal definition of success; (ii) Know and describe the career development big-picture; (iii) Know and explain the importance of interests; (iv) Explore ways of expanding one's interest base; (v) Gain insight into personal values, interests and skills; (vi) Increase exposure to various vocations; and (vii) Begin identifying possible career options and preparing for those options.

GAN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that delivers programs and services to educate and empower young women ages 11 and up, with special emphasis on those from underserved communities. At the core of GAN's mission is the realization that greater steps need to be taken to increase the number of: (i) students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics ("STEM") fields; (ii) female students choosing occupations in these STEM fields; and (iii) workforce-ready graduates for the 21st century labor market who reflect a diversity of aptitudes and cultural perspectives, and who possess a personal foundation to contribute in a global society. Please visit www.girlsactionnetwork.org.



Photos by Elisa Basnight

