



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**  
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658  
707.399.4400 ★ [www.solanocoe.net](http://www.solanocoe.net)

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## **NEWS RELEASE- for immediate release**

**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020  
**Organization:** Solano County Office of Education  
**Contact:** Lilibeth Pinpin, Director, Innovative Programs and Student Success  
**Telephone:** 707-399-4439 **E-Mail:** [LPinpin@solanocoe.net](mailto:LPinpin@solanocoe.net)

### **SCOE Touts Success of Virtual Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL) Camp**

**VACAVILLE, CA-** The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), in partnership with Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) and UC Davis C-STEM (Computing-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), piloted a very successful virtual Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL) Camp for middle school girls, June 8-12, 2020. In-person GIRL Camps, offered in previous years, were paused in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an alternative, SCOE, VUSD, and UC Davis collaborated on this pilot project to provide a virtual opportunity for girls to continue learning leadership, STEM concepts, and robotics-based curriculum. Lessons learned from this year's virtual camp will help SCOE expand GIRL Camps and other virtual opportunities in 2021.

To ensure access to all female students, GIRL Camps are hosted by Solano County Office of Education at no charge. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCOE has been able to expand the GIRL Camp and connect with girls from several Solano cities thanks in part to significant financial contributions from Genentech, Soroptimist International of Central Solano, and Valero.

"It is amazing to see what the girls have accomplished remotely in only five days of coding and programming Linkbots. It is my hope that this experience will encourage them to dive deeper into coding and consider a career path in computing and related fields. SCOE is thrilled to be part of bridging the gender gap in technology," says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. She further adds, "none of this could have been possible without the generous contributions of our community partners including Genentech, Soroptimist International of Central Solano, and Valero.

According to the National Science Board [2018 Science and Engineering Indicators](#), women make up half of the total U.S. college-educated workforce, but only 28% of the science and engineering workforce. (data attached.) SCOE's Girls In Robotics Leadership (GIRL) Camps are focused on addressing gender gaps in science and engineering career fields.

During the virtual five-day camp, the girls learned teamwork, communication, and leadership skills via Zoom. The virtual GIRL Camp introduced students to robotics, principles in engineering, computer programming, and Ch/C/C++ (programming code). They were able to interact with women engineers from Northrop Grumman and Genentech as well as other technology practitioners from VUSD and the Academy of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning through a career panel discussion. Virtual campers learned film production, the creative process involved in making short videos, and using Linkbots that they programmed to perform certain movements. The week ended with students showcasing their video projects and coding skills to their parents, SCOE and VUSD officials, and community members, during a virtual Girl Camp activity.

For more information about the GIRL Camps, contact SCOE's Director of Innovative Programs and Student Success Lilibeth Pinpin at [lpinpin@solanocoe.net](mailto:lpinpin@solanocoe.net) or 707-399-4439.



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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 64,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.

FIGURE 3-26

### Women in the workforce and in S&E: 1993 and 2015



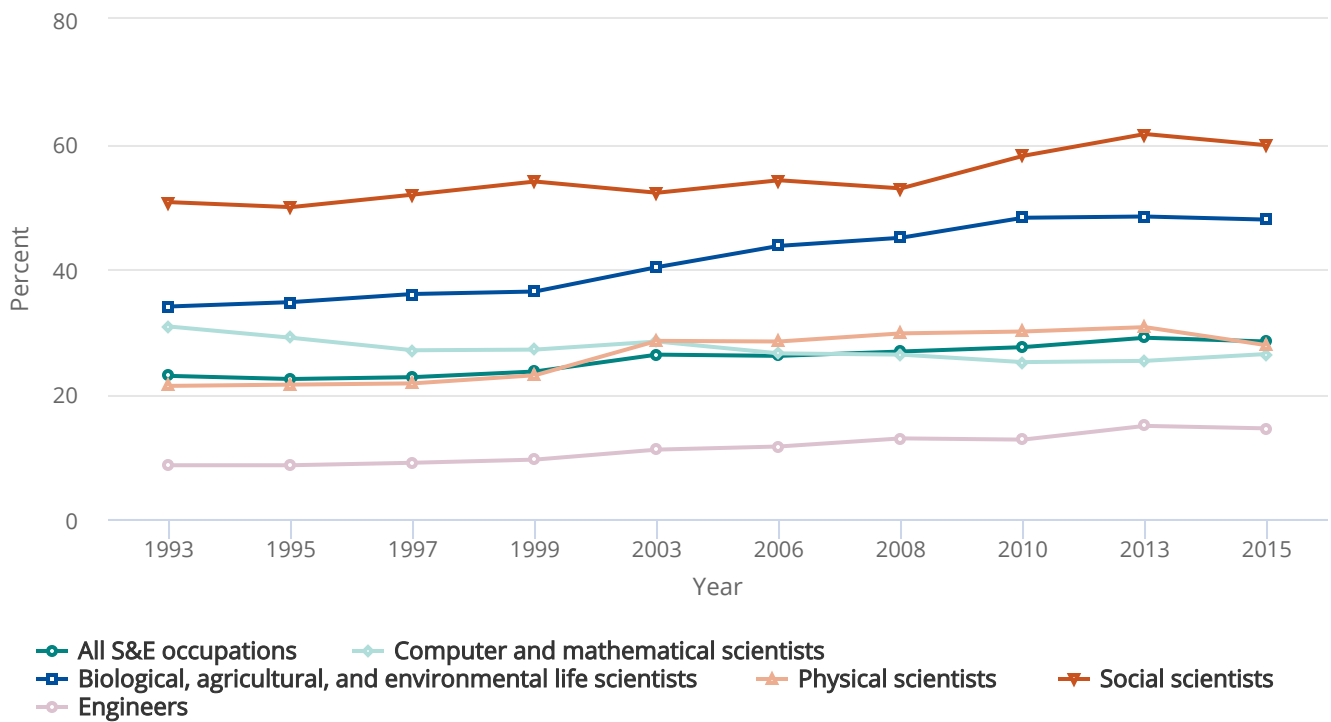
**Source(s)**

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sestat/>, and the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) (1993, 2015), <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/>.

*Science and Engineering Indicators 2018*

FIGURE 3-27

### Women in S&E occupations: 1993–2015



**Note(s)**

National estimates were not available from the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT) in 2001.

**Source(s)**

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, SESTAT (1993–2013), <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sestat/>, and the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) (2015), <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/>.

*Science and Engineering Indicators 2018*