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NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solano County Office of Education Hosts UC Davis C-STEM Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL) Camps

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) partnered with UC Davis Computing-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (C-STEM) to bring free Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL) Camps to Solano County. The Camps focused on introducing and motivating middle school girls to learn computing and STEM concepts through a fun robotics-based curriculum. The first GIRL Camp was held at the Solano Community College (SCC) Campus in Fairfield from June 11-15 and the second at the SCC Vallejo Center from June 18-22.

“It is amazing to see what the girls have accomplished 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. This is SCOE’s contribution to bridging the gender gap in technology,” says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. Superintendent Estrella-Henderson serves on the C-STEM GIRL Advisory Board that provides valuable information and recommendations on community activities, robotics competitions, peer mentoring and other leadership opportunities for girls. More information about the C-STEM GIRL Advisory Board may be found at <http://c-stem.ucdavis.edu/students-parents/girls-camp/girl-advisory-board/>.

During the five-day camps, girls learned teamwork, communication, and leadership skills. Those participating at the SCC Vallejo Center, also had the opportunity to engaging in a Skype session with Peggy Johnson, Microsoft Executive Vice President of Business Development, who shared her successes and challenges in a traditionally male-dominated engineering profession. The GIRL Camps introduced students to robotics, principles in engineering, computer programming and Ch/C/C++ (programing code), in a mocked-up RoboPlay Challenge Competition. Girls also learned film production and the creative process involved in making short videos, using Linkbots that they programmed to perform certain movements. Each week ended with student teams showcasing their video projects and coding skills.

For more information about the GIRL Camps, contact SCOE’s Director of Innovative Programs and Student Success Lilibeth Pinpin at lpinpin@solanocoe.net or 707-399-4439.

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