



News Release

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Regent Johnson Promotes Science Careers for Girls

BROOKINGS, S.D. – A national decline in the number of students pursuing mathematics, science, or engineering is even more marked when taking into consideration the number of females entering those fields.

As a scientist herself, Regent Kathryn Johnson knows just how important it is to attract more students to science and engineering careers. She will share her practical and personal perspectives with high school girls exploring their interests in science and technology at a one-day workshop Saturday, Nov. 13, at South Dakota State University.

The Brookings workshop convenes at 9 a.m. Johnson will keynote a closing session at 4:30 p.m., speaking on the topic, “Three Good Reasons to Study Mathematics, Science and Engineering.”

Since 2006, the Ready SET Go! workshop has engaged female professors, students, and alumni from the SDSU College of Engineering in a concerted effort to encourage more young girls to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, or math, often referred to as the STEM fields. At these workshops, girls are introduced to hands-on projects and the opportunity to closely interact with females employed in STEM industries.

“To maintain this country’s standard of living and competitiveness, the U.S. simply needs to graduate more engineers and scientists,” Johnson said. “These workshops support girls’ interest in math and science, and also signal to teachers and parents that they have an important role in supporting females who choose these careers,” she said.

Vice president of the South Dakota Board of Regents, Regent Johnson is owner of Johnson Environmental Concepts of Rapid City. She holds a Ph.D. degree in geology from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, as well as master’s and undergraduate degrees in chemistry. She was appointed to the Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology and is a member of the National Research Council Committee on Women in Science & Engineering.

SDSU has been holding STEM workshops geared to high school and 8th grade girls for the past four years and has seen the number of female students in the College of Engineering at SDSU increase significantly. For more information about this workshop and how to register, visit the website at <http://www.sdstate.edu/engr/camps/ready-set-go.cfm>.