

MAGIC Summer Camp Reports Results

Mentoring A Girl in Construction (MAGIC) Summer Camp celebrated its fourth year in operation with the opening of a second Georgia location in Burke County and good news from a camper-turned-counselor. Designed to introduce high school girls to the construction industry, MAGIC is a free, one week summer camp combining hands-on activities with career mentoring.

2010 camps, held at Augusta Technical College and Gwinnett Technical College, were sponsored by CEFGA, Georgia Power, and Georgia Energy and Industrial Construction Consortium as well as other local companies committed to seeing more women choose careers in construction. Through project-based work, girls learned about safety and acquired skills in carpentry, electrical wiring, and welding.

Successful women in construction such as Sherri Radney, Operations Team Leader at Georgia Power's Plant Branch, volunteered as mentors and teachers in the program, providing campers with good role models and sound advice on education and careers. On the last day of camp, Henrietta Kisseih, owner of Kissberg Construction, shared her company's story, detailing how she grew her business from a small signage company to a leader in demolition, hauling, and grading. She assured the girls that there "are lots of opportunities in construction."

MAGIC Summer Camp founder and Executive Director Renee Conner closed the week at Gwinnett Tech by recognizing each of the campers and encouraging the group to remember the skills they learned and professionals they met. This year Mrs. Conner, was able to make her message even more relevant to the girls. She announced that Jessica Kirkland, one of their counselors and a camper who CEFGA featured after the very first MAGIC Summer Camp, had decided to study engineering at the University of West Georgia. "We have our first statistic in Georgia," said Mrs. Conner. "This is what it's all about!"