

Community Forester talks about her career working outside

Participants at the Diane Burbick Math and Science Conference for Middle School Girls heard about the career path of keynote speaker **Courtney Blashka**, who explained that she always wanted to work outdoors. Now serving as Director of Community Forestry and Conservation at Holden Forests & Gardens, Courtney talked about her work as a certified arborist and experiences working in municipal and community forestry in the private and public sectors.

She encouraged the girls at the Conference to consider a career in environmental science or sustainability. "Keep your eyes open to opportunities," she says, "Be uniquely you."

Held in November, part of the mission of the Conference is to encourage girls to continue to take challenging math and science courses in high school. It featured interactive sessions with professional women, who discussed their careers in microbiology, architecture, nutrition, marketing/consulting and forensics.

Jeff Manion, Tallmadge Middle School Principal, and **Michael Haren**, Enterprise Architect at Overdrive, Inc., provided fathers' perspectives. The two discussed parenting experiences with their daughters and responded to questions.



Participants build a structure after learning about architecture principles.



Professional women panelists from left, Sandra Ridgeway-Williams, Susan Burton Lowry, Julia Duhart, Jerrica Sweetnich, Lynn Rabatsky and Elaine Brunschwig.



Dr. Elaine Brunschwig leads a demonstration in microbiology.



Learning about forensics from Sandra Ridgeway-Williams.

Speaking from a fathers' perspectives from left, Michael Haren and Jeff Manion.



Compact Executive Director Mary Jane Stanchina and Burbick keynote speaker Courtney Blashka.

Stow-Munroe Falls Superintendent Dr. Tom Bratten introduced the Conference speaker.

