Girls Technology Day events are coordinated by the NH Department of Education in partnership with the NH High Tech Council, the Community College System of NH, University of New Hampshire College of Engineering and Physical Science, and many business partners. Since 2012, these events have served to encourage NH’s female students to become invested in technical career fields during the ninth and tenth grades. Student attendance numbers continue to grow on an annual basis. This year, there are nearly 600 students registered to attend the events on March 14th at NHTI in Concord and March 16th at the University of New Hampshire’s College of Engineering and Physical Science CEPS) in Durham.

There are many role models and messages of support being provided to students at the events. Senator Jeanne Shaheen has sent a video message of STEM-spiration to the young women in attendance. On March 14th a representative from Congresswomen Annie Kuster’s office will read a letter of encouragement from the Congresswoman. Senator Maggie Hassan will be present to speak to the young women in attendance on Thursday, March 16th at UNH. And a UNH STEM-bassador, a current UNH CEPS student, studying chemical engineering will share her collegiate experience as well.

In addition to hearing from STEM mentors, each group of students will participate in three, technology-focused, hands-on workshops led by NH postsecondary educators and industry leaders. Students have an opportunity to explore the vendor fair where they can learn about STEM industries, career opportunities, and educational pathways that support their career goals. A 2016 National Center for Women in Technology report shows that, nationwide, women are underrepresented in technology fields with only about 25 percent of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs currently being held by women.

This year’s workshops include computer programming, lean manufacturing, solar power, metrology, robotics, and exploring biomolecules among many others. There are 43 presenters that are offering more than 100 workshops. Thirty-five vendors will share their organizations products, services, career opportunities, and educational pathways through the vendor fair. Thirty-eight volunteers will support the smooth facilitation of the day’s events. This collaborative event could not happen without the many mentors, presenters, volunteers, vendors, and sponsors that come together in support of NH’s young women exploring STEM career pathways.

Lunch is provided for the students and the event is available by pre-registration on a first come first served basis. There is no fee charged to students/ schools for admittance to the event.