

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IBM TECHNOLOGY CAMPS INSPIRE TODAY'S GIRLS TO BECOME THE SCIENTISTS
AND ENGINEERS OF TOMORROW**

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY -- More than 50 middle-school girls in the Mid-Hudson Valley will spend one week of their summer vacation as fledgling scientists and engineers. From July 20 – 24, at technology camps at the IBM East Fishkill and Poughkeepsie sites, the students will address environmental concerns, program Lego robots, build bridges and roller coasters, wire electrical circuits, design a web site, and use chemistry to create their own personal products.

IBM East Fishkill will host an EX.I.T.E. (EXploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) camp for girls from the Beacon, Wappingers and Putnam Valley school districts. IBM Poughkeepsie will host girls from the Highland and Pine Plains school district. The goal of the camps is to help the campers develop a keen interest in science, technology, math and engineering and to increase the awareness of the career opportunities available in these fields.

Field trip to Beacon Institute

On July 24, the last day of the camp week, both groups of students will come together for a special day of environmental activity at the Beacon Institute. Dr. Sharon Nunes, Vice President of Big Green Innovations for IBM, will lead the campers in a hands-on environmental workshop, focusing on the importance of our water resources, including the Hudson River. Nunes leads a worldwide team of IT and domain experts who are developing solutions in carbon management, photovoltaics and water management. The girls will also learn about the history of Dennings Point, where the Beacon Institute is located in Beacon, New York, and explore the environmentally friendly structure.

Camp participants are nominated by their teachers and guidance counselors. IBM volunteers participate in all the technology camps, developing, coordinating and overseeing the interactive projects and activities. IBM funds the costs of the camps and there is no charge to those selected to attend.

Beginning with the first EX.I.T.E. Camp in 1999, more than 10,000 young people have taken part in IBM technology camps. For additional information about the camps, please visit <http://www.ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives/grant/education/camp.shtml>. Information about IBM is available at <http://www.ibm.com>.

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To coordinate interviews and schedule a visit to either IBM site or the field trip to the Beacon Institute, please contact:

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