



**Lead Story**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Summit

**High-Tech Symposium**

- The New World Economy - Women and Girls in High-Tech

**Virtual Conferencing**

- How many WGIT's does it take to build a career in science technology?

**E-Mentoring**

- How do you know when you have a GEM-SET?

**Computer Literacy**

- How can rural women learn about computers?

**Other Information Technology Programs**

- What other programs are providing training for women?

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**"The Voice of Working Women"**

**E** *E-Mentoring*



**How do you know when you have a GEM-SET?**

The Women's Bureau's Girls' E-Mentoring in Science, Engineering & Technology (GEM-SET) program is an exciting national demonstration project that

connects girls, ages 13-18, with women mentors in the science, engineering and technology (SET) fields by e-mail.

**Story Continued**

The project, cosponsored by the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), consists of a listserv and website that links girls and women in 29 States and the District of Columbia.

***"The GEM-SET dialogue has opened the girls' eyes to greater possibilities for their futures. I wish I had something like that thirty years ago when I started out."***

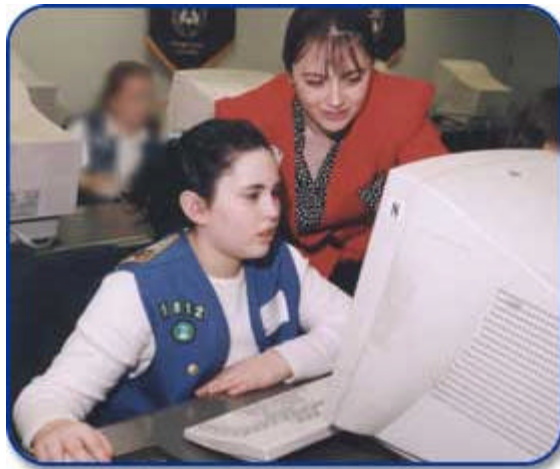
Currently, about 400 girls are provided connections to over 100 women mentors from a variety of science, engineering, and technology fields. Through a Daily Digest, mentors respond to questions from the girls and provide information and advice.

In Pittsburgh, some GEM-SET members are learning how to get an e-mail address and use the Internet for the first time. An 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Minnesota wrote, "Its extraordinary to me how much you women care about us, the hundreds or so of young girls across the country, and give us a fair chance to succeed."

Girls participating in Kentucky received free scientific calculators donated by a local electronics company. According to their teacher, "This program is really starting to make these young ladies think about their futures and careers, instead of thinking, Oh, do we have to do this math."

In addition to the mentoring opportunity, GEM-SET maintains a website, [www.Gem-Set.org](http://www.Gem-Set.org), that provides a variety of information for participants, including a potential mentor's biographical information, the SET career of the month, highlighted women in SET careers, and activities designed to test knowledge about SET careers.

On May 4, 2002, the newest phase of this innovative program will be initiated. An interactive videoconference, originating at University of Missouri – Kansas City, will bring together the girls and mentors and give them the chance to discuss what they are learning about SET vocations.



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