

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2018

Greensboro, NC

The Nehemiah Community Empowerment Center, Inc. (Nehemiah Center) is pleased to announce that they are the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro's (CFGG) Women to Women Fund. This fund is a permanent grant making endowment that engages women in helping organizations that assist women and their families by awarding high-impact grants. Nehemiah has received this grant for a second time from CFGG.

The grant will be used to continue its implement of the 'Phenomenal Women in S.T.E.M.' program. Their mission in this initiative is to expose, empower and decrease educational inequity in these fields for the over 380,000 female population in Guilford County. This collaborative effort is helping to train and equip underserved females in the STEM, Information Technology (IT) and Robotics fields. Women, aged 18 and over, have received training and can earn certification in a variety of programs, including Intro to PC Fundamentals. Beginning Jan. 8th, certification training in Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), and CompTIA's A+ Computer Technician will commence. Nehemiah Center's Executive Director Randi Francis stated "We do not want to set up our students for failure, so we must ensure that each of our clients has acquired the educational proficiency to attain these certifications". As a means of ensuring that success, the Nehemiah Center has partnered with Reading Connections to verify that all participants have the required 10th grade reading level before starting their training programs. They will also provide Reading & Math Literacy and GED prep courses for participants. After training, they will be referred to the Women's Resource Center to attain soft skills, resume writing and workshops.

Mrs. Francis also stated "There are over 4 million STEM and IT jobs available in the U.S. Skills attained through this intensive training will allow participants to be more competitive and marketable when seeking employment in these fields. We will need help from the public and private sector." All training courses are economical and low-cost or you may even qualify for free training. To further assist trainees, low cost on-site day care services will be provided to qualified participants.

The Nehemiah Center has also partnered with CompTIA, one of the world's leading IT certification bodies, to provide consulting services for the project. Nehemiah is an Authorized Academy Partner with CompTIA to help develop an IT-ready workforce. Nehemiah is also currently seeking partnerships with local area businesses and the private sector to provide IT recruiters and volunteers to assist with training. These organizations will enable clients to obtain hands-on workforce experience and offer internships for high school seniors and adult participants. NC F.I.R.S.T.'s Team Platypi will provide middle & high school participants the opportunity to attend STEM & Robotics exploration sessions during their afterschool and summer program. Their goal is to develop an all female team to compete in the F.I.R.S.T. Lego League Robotics Competition for young ladies ages 14-18.

Interest meeting sessions will be conducted on Thursday, Nov.29th at 10:30 am at their location indicated below. Please call to R.S.V.P. your seat for the day or evening session. Interested non-profit organizations or companies from the private sector desiring to partner and/or become a corporate sponsor in this dynamic initiative should contact them immediately. "Our society must start teaching individuals how to fish instead of just feeding them for a day", said Nehemiah's President/CEO H. Sheldon McCray.

The Nehemiah Center's STEM Academy's motto is: "Educating for the 21st Century & Beyond!"

Visit them on the web at: <https://www.be-a-nehemiah.org> to learn more about their causes and community outreach activities.

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