



## MEDIA ALERT

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### **Techbridge Receives Silicon Valley Education Foundation's 2012 STEM Innovation Award**

Oakland, California - Techbridge, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring girls in science, technology and engineering, was presented with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation's (SVEF) 2012 STEM Innovation Award for achievement in science education. The ceremony took place during the SVEF's annual Pioneers and Purpose dinner at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, CA on September 5, 2012. The science award, sponsored and presented by Symantec, recognizes Techbridge's achievements in "pioneering programs or practices that create innovations in science, technology, engineering and/or math education."

Techbridge is recognized for its work with girls from underprivileged communities, providing innovative programs that offer hands-on activities and career exploration through role models and field trips. Since 2000, Techbridge has sought to improve the imbalance of women and minorities in STEM fields through its after-school and summer programming, family outreach, partnerships and professional development programs. "Techbridge is committed to helping every girl experience the wonders of science and giving her a place to explore, ask questions, and learn to persevere. We are supporting the next generation of scientists in our programs," shared Linda Kekelis, Executive Director of Techbridge.

Techbridge has served over 3,500 girls in grades 5-12 primarily in socio-economically disadvantaged areas in Oakland and surrounding communities, and reached over 6,000 girls through Girls Go Techbridge, a partnership with Girl Scout councils nationwide. With support from organizations like the Noyce Foundation, Chevron, National Science Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Techbridge has sustained and grown its programming to serve many more girls, transforming lives and cultivating a future, diverse workforce in science and engineering.

The event honored four leading Bay Area organizations for their work in inspiring students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Other awardees included Level Playing Field Institute for technology (presented by Flextronics); Computer History Museum for engineering (presented by Oracle); and MIND Research Institute for math (presented by Ernst & Young). Each organization received \$5,000 from the SVEF to be reinvested in their programs. At the event, [Larry Sonsini](#), chairman of the law firm [Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati](#), was named the Silicon Valley Education Foundation's 2012 Pioneer Business Leader.

About [Techbridge](#): Techbridge empowers girls to realize their dreams through science, technology, and engineering. The organization's vision is for equal representation of girls and underrepresented minorities in these fields, and that all girls have the opportunity to explore the wonders of science and engineering. Since its founding, Techbridge has served over 3,000 girls in grades 5-12 through after-school and summer programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and thousands more girls through its partnership with Girl Scout councils across the nation. For more information, visit [www.techbridgegirls.org](http://www.techbridgegirls.org).

About [SVEF](http://www.svefoundation.org): Silicon Valley Education Foundation is a non-profit resource and advocate for students, educator, and corporate and individual donors. The Foundation drives scholastic achievement in the critical areas of math and science by combining resources and partnerships to provide innovative and academic programs. We are a catalyst for policy solutions in public education in the region. Its mission is to make Silicon Valley the leader in academically prepared students. For more information, visit [www.svefoundation.org](http://www.svefoundation.org).