Thank you to each and every one of you for your support of our inaugural computer science outreach event, Girls Advancing Technology.

Without you, the event wouldn’t have occurred. Your efforts to promote our event and cause throughout your networks allowed us to bring in 8 industry mentors & 20 girls to Xavier’s campus for a morning full of fun and learning in early December.

What We Did
The morning was a mix of small group activities and discussions to get the girls’ learning about technology in a new way. We started out the day with an innovation activity to get everyone’s brains thinking about technology, how we use it today, and how we can use it in the future. The girls were broken into small groups of 4-5, with at least 1 mentor distributed to each discussion. Each group were given a subject (like hobbies), a platform (like smartphones), and a technology (the cloud). With that info, they were able to come up with incredible, creative ideas. One animal lover suggested an iPhone app where you could take care of a pet, in particular, the financial side, so kids could show their parents they are responsible enough to get an animal in real life.

A real crowd pleaser was a basic programming activity, Marching Orders, from CS Unplugged. In groups, they wrote a “program” that told a partner how to walk to a specific location inside Smith Hall at Xavier University. They quickly learned that programming has to be precise to avoid walking their teammates into doors and walls. In between these activities, the girls had a chance to talk to our impressive industry mentors, as well as Xavier students and professors. Take a look at our album in flickr to see photos from our morning.
What they thought
As the morning wrapped up, the girls were energized and the mentors were full of ideas. Even before we walked out the door, it seemed clear that the volunteers had caught the outreach bug - we were discussing what we could do next time and how we could measure success. To that end, after the event, we made sure to see we got some feedback from both our girls and our mentors through anonymous surveys. The results were gratifying:

"It was fun, it wasn't boring, and I learned a ton. I actually told my little sister what I learned."

We heard back from nearly all our mentors and 1/2 the girls who attended. And the numbers were promising! 2/3 of the girls who responded to our survey said they would be likely to take a Computer Science class in high school and 100% were interested in attending future events. 88% of the girls who responded said that there are more likely or are still interested in a career in technology.

Big Thanks & Volunteers
Special thanks to HP for providing bags and notebooks for all the girls, as well as Gensuite LLC, which provided lunch bags for their swag bags. Additionally, we were able to provide cool goodies from Yahoo, Facebook, NetApp & many other great donors.

Most importantly, we have the Xavier University Women of Excellence to thank for funding this event through their Giving Circle.

This day wouldn't have been possible without our volunteers:
Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Xavier CS Professor
Dr. Liz Johnson, Xavier CS Professor
Dani Monahan, senior Xavier CS Student
Luke Schwieterman, senior Xavier CS Student
Amanda Petzinger, Gensuite, LLC
Judy Molnar, McPC
Mary Beth O’Gorman, Mike Albert Fleet Solutions
Princess Trillo, P&G
Peggy Gruenke Finney, Stagnaro Saba & Patterson Co LPA
Yolanda Lauderdale, HP
Sue Oswalt, Connxus
Carol Hibbard, HP

What's Next?
If you are interested in getting involved in future Girls Advancing Tech events as a volunteer or by spreading the word to your network, or if you know a girl who would like to join us at future events, please contact Kate Baldwin via katembaldwin@gmail.com. Keep an eye out for more information on future events as planning for Girls Advancing Tech 2012 begins to shape up!