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Landmark students complete 'Girls in Technology' boot camp

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Prosthetic creation team



Photos by Carolyn Dryer

Dayanara Castro and Angelica Fernandez work as a team to put together the prosthetic hand they produced using a 3D printer.





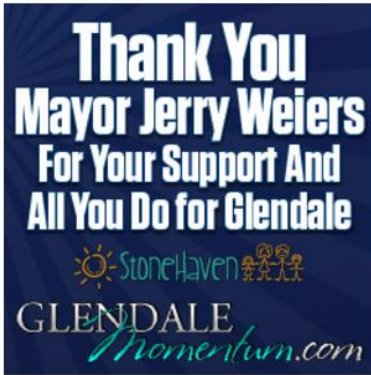
Photo by Carolyn Dryer

Josefina Lima

Josefina Lima cuts the thread on her prosthetic hand. Josefina was one of nine girls who participated in the "Girls in Technology" boot camp at Landmark Middle School.

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Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 12:00 am

Special to The Glendale Star | [0 comments](#)

Nine middle school girls were selected by Glendale Landmark Middle School, 5730 W. Myrtle Ave., to participate in a "Girls in Technology" boot camp May 22 to 25, to learn how to construct prosthetic hands using 3D printing technology.

Last Thursday, the girls completed the course and were asked what they learned about 3D printers, and how they could use what they learned in the boot camp.

The boot camp is organized by Immersive Teaching STEAM Academy (ITSA), which is a local non-profit known for its after-school enrichment programs focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) subjects. The 3D printed prosthetic hands are for the Enable Community Foundation, which is a volunteer-based organization that provides open-source prosthetic hand designs to be downloaded and 3D printed for those in need.



ITSA supplied the kits, parts and 3D printers to Landmark to complete the "Girls in Technology" boot camp onsite, free of charge. Avery, an ITSA Instructor, hopes to encourage young girls to pursue STEM-related careers, which are predominately dominated by men.

Avery said, "Whenever I see a STEM class, there are always more boys than girls participating. With the proper guidance and support, you can do anything you want."

ITSA Marketing Director Dapzury Valenzuela agrees with this sentiment.

She said, "STEM education plays a critical role in preparing our youth for the future through skill building and workforce development."

ITSA founder and Executive Director Raman Khurana was excited with the response from the sixth- and seventh-grade girls in the camp. He asked, "What are you doing, what are you learning, and what filament are you using?"

They took turns answering, most of them said they were learning to build prosthetic hands and how a 3D printer works, as well as the properties of the filament, which is PLA (safe), not ABS (toxic). They also responded positively about the modeling software, which taught them that if they can model it, they can 3D print it.

"One thing I loved about it," one student said, "seeing what other people were doing."

Another student said "putting the pieces together" was her favorite part.

One student quietly offered, "how we can help one person," was what interested her.

Josefina Lima said the designing aspect caught her attention.

All were intrigued by the idea of making their own design out of a single wire.

Khurana said the goal was not to just make something, but to give back, and he saw that in the girls' efforts and their responses to his questions.



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Symbol	Last	Ch
S&P500	2429.39	-
NQ100	5752.55	+4
Dow30	21279.22	+4
Nikkei225	19898.75	-1

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Immersive Teaching STEAM Academy (ITSA) offers fun and exciting projects, using cutting-edge technologies. Students can learn about 3D printing, 3D scanning and modeling, robotics, game development, Minecraft molding, Virtual Reality, and more. There are more than 25 classes using project-based learning to inspire kids to pursue STEM/STEAM subjects. ITSA also offers summer camps open to all students June through August for kids ages 8-plus, 11-plus and 14-plus.

For more information, email info@ITSA.academy, or call 623-271-7709.

Immersive Teaching STEAM Academy (ITSA)

Immersive Teaching STEAM Academy (ITSA), is a non-profit that offers enrichment programs focused on STEM/STEAM subjects using project-based learning. ITSA offers courses, projects, and field trips that can be used to supplement the knowledge gained in an educational institution or home-school environment. Its mission is to Inspire, Innovate and Educate using technology as the foundation of education. To learn more about ITSA, visit www.ITSA.academy.

Editor Carolyn Dryer contributed to this article.

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