

## **Ambassador Mull's Remarks at *Lean In STEM* Conference**

**June 30, 2015**

Thank You Bianka for the kind introduction. It is truly a pleasure to be here today at the Copernicus Center for the opening of the *Lean In STEM* conference.

Many distinguished partners and individuals have worked very hard to make this event a reality. Thanks to Minister Andrzej Halicki from the Ministry of Administration and Digitalization and the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission for supporting this dynamic project. Special thanks also to executive mentors from Cisco, Intel, Bosch, SAP and Siemens, whose accomplishments serve as a model for promising young women. Your guidance and support is creating a network of young women who will achieve great things in science, technology, engineering, and math.

I am pleased that the conference attracted inspiring speakers, such as Andrea Jones from NASA and Bob Morse from U.S. News and World Report, as well as participants from Ireland, Sweden, Hungary, Germany, and Ukraine. We look forward to sharing ideas and learning from one another.

The core goal of the Lean In STEM project is to encourage women and girls to make the most of their abilities, to study science and math and pursue careers in engineering and technology.

Lean In STEM is about promoting opportunity for all women and girls in a world where education in math and science is the passport to success.

This is an issue that matters to our President, Barack Obama, who in speaking about this issue, said:

*“One of the things that I really strongly believe in is that we need to have more girls interested in math, science, and engineering. We’ve got half the population that is way underrepresented in those fields and that means that we’ve got a whole bunch of talent ... that is not being encouraged...”*

If we want our economies to be able to compete and meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, what could be more important? Bringing women and girls into STEM education programs and ultimately into the high technology work force will help our countries achieve our common goals.

Poland and the United States are strong allies and our governments are working together to build the high technology industries which will drive growth for our economies and provide jobs for our peoples.

Last November, we signed the U.S.-Poland Innovation Program, or “PLUS-IP”. PLUS-IP will strengthen Poland’s innovation ecosystem through the nexus of government, business and academia and will promote innovation through U.S.-Polish joint ventures and joint research and development projects. Through this initiative, our countries will bring successful innovation models such as the Research Triangle and Silicon Valley to Poland.

In 2011, the Government of Poland established the Top 500 Innovators Program. Under this program, leading Polish scientists and entrepreneurs travel to Silicon Valley where they are hosted by Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. The Top 500 Innovators program promotes commercialization of research and closer academic-business cooperation through a nine-week professional development program. This program builds ties between innovators in Poland and the United States.

You are here today, however, because you know government alone cannot achieve the goal we are seeking. Success depends upon everyone in this room – women and men, high school teachers, university professors, and NGO and business leaders. It is your dedication and talent which will open the doors of science and math education to all.

More than anything else, success depends on the commitment and creativity of the young women and girls with us today.

We say: You can do it! And don't let anyone ever tell you that you can't!

Thank you very much.