

**Remarks by Ambassador Crystal Nix-Hines**  
**TeachHer Launch**  
**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**  
**June 14, 2016**

Thank you, Dr. Biden, for your inspiring remarks.

As you noted, there is a significant global gender disparity in Science, Engineering, Technology, Art/Design and Math fields around the world, leaving the public and private sectors without the diverse workforce they need to succeed in today's global economy.

We also know that for countries to be able to fully deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, they need concerted investment now to prepare young women to be competitive for these 21st century STEAM careers.

TeachHer is designed to do just that: it will create a Master Corps of Teachers who are trained to inspire and equip girls aged 13 to 16 to pursue these fields.

Working together to leverage the expertise and resources of UNESCO, its member states, and some of the best NGO and private sector experts in the business, we can raise up a whole new generation of women who can be leaders and innovators in their communities -- trail-blazers like the renowned astronaut, chemist, tech entrepreneur, architect and mathematician displayed on the wall behind you.

TeachHer is built on four pillars: **Activate, Train, Inspire, Sustain.**

We will **Activate** girls' interest by exposing them to engaging, hands-on learning. We've seen that spark ignited during the three-week Women in Science (or WiSci) camp for 120 girls we held last summer in Rwanda with UNESCO, Intel, Microsoft, and other partners. And, we anticipate similar results from a WiSci camp for girls from the APEC region in Peru this summer.

But we need to reach more girls than camps can service. So the **Train** pillar is about getting the multiplier effect that's achieved when motivated, trained and inspiring teachers like Dr. Biden impact hundreds, if not thousands, of students over their careers. President Obama launched an initiative domestically to train 100,000 new Master Teachers, and TeachHer will expand that effort abroad, starting in Africa and Central America but later expanding to other regions.

The participants in the trainings based in Ethiopia and Costa Rica will have a week of intensive, instruction organized by our lead implementing partner, the Institute for International Education, in collaboration with UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), UNESCO's Costa Rica regional field office, and other partners.

Teachers and administrators will not only take back valuable expertise and a TeachHer certification but also state-of-the-art training materials for each of the STEAM subjects -- STEAM IN A BOX, if you will. We want to make it as easy as possible for these programs to be quickly implemented in classrooms. These open-source educational resources will be available to every UNESCO Member State, as well.

But we can't stop there. We have to **Inspire** and encourage young women to believe - truly believe -- that they can break through barriers and succeed in these fields. We want to give girls role models in the STEAM fields, at both the global and local levels, so we are developing a network of TeachHer champions and mentors who will support the initiative in a variety of ways, and help these adolescent girls thrive.

Finally, we need to **Sustain** girls' interest by providing ongoing learning opportunities through TeachHer , by helping participating schools launch after-school clubs and other extracurricular activities to provide opportunities for girls to deepen their engagement in STEAM through, for example, app development contests, pitch competitions, product design, engineering projects to address local challenges, and other projects. You'll see examples of what we have in mind in just a few moments.

**Activate, Train, Inspire, Sustain.** An ambitious program that envisions a new kind of public-private partnership -- one that is sustained by achieving tangible results on the ground, brings value to all the partners fully aligned with their strategic objectives, and encourages all participants to have skin in the game, including the benefitting Member States. Charity comes and goes. Partnerships grow and expand. And that's exactly what TeachHer must do.

We're off to a great start with a wonderful group of partners and supporters, and some fired up Member States. I'd like to ask each of them to stand, and remain standing until I've read all the names.

ADG for Education Tang, and UNESCO co-focal points ADG Schlegel, and Gender Equality Division Director Gulser Corat.

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Two other donors, Katherine Brittain Bradley and Daniel Weiss, could not be here today.

We also acknowledge the State Department's TechWomen program and Goldman Sach's 10,000 Strong program, which will support our mentoring program, and the Department of Education's Deputy Director, Melissa Moritz.

And thanks once again to our luncheon sponsor, Georgetown University and U.S. UNESCO Commissioner, Dr. Phyllis McGrab. Phyllis, please rise.

Finally, I'd like to ask the Ambassadors from the countries participating in the pilot training program to stand. Our hosts, the Governments of Ethiopia and Costa Rica, along with Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama.

Please join me in giving all of them a round of applause.

Obviously, the need for STEAM training is greater than what we can do in this pilot phase. So we encourage other Member States and private sector partners to join us in this 3-year endeavor. Using the UNESCO platform, we can, together, change the trajectories of girls around the world and open up doors and careers they never dreamed were possible. Come join us. We don't have a second to waste. Il n'y a pas une seconde à perdre.

Thank you. Merci beaucoup.