



Digital Divas 2020-2021 Program Update

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Eastern Michigan University transitioned all campus classes and activities to remote online in March, 2020. As a result, the Digital Divas conference scheduled for April 17, 2020 was quickly converted to a virtual format.

With a welcoming message from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, the first “Virtual Divas” featured video breakout sessions from 20 companies, organizations and EMU departments including GE, Ford Motor Company, Promess, Black Girl Mathgic, Google, NASA, as well as EMU’s Interior Design, Chemistry, and Fashion Merchandising Innovation programs.

- For the 2020-2021 school year, Digital Divas is launching free Digital Divas After School Programs with five urban and rural schools in southeast Michigan. Four of the programs will be delivered virtually and one will be face-to-face. The program will serve urban and rural middle schools with the hope that the students will continue on to a 4-year summer camp program on the campus of EMU. This After School program is sponsored by GameAbove and the Mr. October Foundation and will teach the students about different areas in STEM over 20 weeks.
- This year we are happy to announce the first Digital Divas Esports team in partnership with Eastern Michigan University’s Early College Alliance. Currently, there are eight girls on the team. We hope this program will be an introduction and build interest in STEM for the all-girl team members.
- During the summer of 2020, Digital Divas partnered with the Engineering Society of Detroit to host a virtual summer academy for their Girls in Engineering Program. Rising 9th-grade girls participated in 2 courses taught by actual EMU engineering faculty. The twenty-three girls from Detroit took two courses;
 - Introduction to Engineering where the girls learned about designing and 3D printing,
 - Build and Program a Smart Robotic Car where girls built their own robotic car and programmed it to follow directions
- Lastly, the Digital Diva program of the future is going virtual. The virtual platform will allow access to Digital Diva videos of learning and hands-on sessions and digital videos of tours of where women in STEM work. We hope this program will be available to all girls by spring 2021.

Our deepest thanks to the AAUW-Ann Arbor Branch for your continued dedication and support – we couldn’t do this without you!