

1125-R1-1324      **Carolyn Connell\*** (cconnell@westminstercollege.edu). *AWE+SUM Outreach Program: Challenges after 12 Years.*

The AWE+SUM program is a 4-day residential summer camp for entering 8th grade girls, held at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. This summer's program was the 12th year of the program. AWE+SUM ("Attend Westminster, Explore Science, Use Math") presents hands-on workshops, led by female math & science faculty. The program has the goal of showing that these subjects can be really fun, hopefully inspiring girls to consider careers in STEM fields. Girls from Title 1 schools and other underserved populations are given priority for admittance.

After years of the program, there are still challenges in providing the program. Funding for scholarships has not been the difficulty: several organizations provide support, such as the MAA's Tensor Foundation and the American Association of University Women. The primary challenge for AWE+SUM has been the decision about which girls to admit each summer: even girls who are excelling academically need encouragement to pursue these fields, at this most difficult time in their lives. (Received September 16, 2016)