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Yevgeniya Rivers (yrivers@newhaven.edu), University of New Haven, 300 Boston Post Rd, West Haven, CT 06516, and Yasanthi Kottegoda* (YKottegoda@newhaven.edu). Pitching a Passion for Mathematics and Computer Science in a Summer Camp Setting for Females Entering Grades 7 through 12.

In the Status of Women & Girls in New Haven, CT Report, researchers found that, "Changes to public policies and program initiatives provide opportunities to create a better future for women and girls in New Haven. Recommended changes include... female-specific programs in New Haven, implementing strong career and education counseling for girls beginning in elementary school." The lack of opportunities for low cost STEM enrichment programs undermine the social and economic prospects for girls in New Haven and justify the need for a summer math camp. The University of New Haven All Girls Math Academy is a one-week summer enrichment program in Mathematics and Computer Science for girls entering grades 7-10. The curricula provides a hands-on experience for the campers in maths to which they would have had little or no prior exposure, thus challenging any disparities that would exist in their prior knowledge. The main objectives are to improve recruitment and retention of girls in math and computer science majors and careers by increasing awareness of career options, demonstrating that mathematics can be fun and challenging, strengthening problem solving skills, improving attitudes, self-image in mathematical literacy and also developing written and verbal communication skills. (Received September 16, 2018)