



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JEWELS ACADEMY 2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FEATURES CEO OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL IOWA

Local Nonprofit Supports Underrepresented Young Women in STEM & Self-Enrichment

DES MOINES, Iowa - (Sept. 13) - Jewels Academy's leadership is proud to host **Keeping the Brilliance in Jewels**, a dynamic fundraising event taking place on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. CST. To RSVP or donate - [click here](#).

The CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa, Bridget Cravens-Neely, is confirmed as this year's keynote presenter. Additionally, several other inspirational guest speakers will be participating. Also, during the event, two Brilliance Awards will be given; the Brilliance Servant-Leadership Award and Brilliance Young Emerging-Scholar Award.

Dr. Kimberly S. Wayne, founder and executive director of Jewels Academy said: "Mrs. Neely's STEM career and now CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters organization represents an example for our young women to look up too. Mrs. Craven-Neely exudes inspiration and works diligently within the community. We are excited to have her as our keynote speaker."

Jewels Academy is a local nonprofit which offers long-term STEM and self-enrichment programs for underrepresented young women in 4th through 12th grades. Jewels Academy provides young women with unique and challenging learning experiences while preserving traditions and respect for their principles and values.

Since 2012, Jewels Academy has reached over 16,000 students in community events and served over 687 program attendees throughout the United States. Also, most importantly, **100 percent of High School Peer Mentors seek higher education or formal professional training with 75 percent choosing to study in a STEM field.**

In 2020, Jewels Academy awarded more than \$19,000 in college scholarships. Proceeds from the Keeping the Brilliance in Jewels fundraising event will sustain their ongoing mission.

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Jewels Academy's mission is to provide young women the competitive edge needed to succeed academically and vocationally in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, leadership, financial stewardship, and the arts within an encouraging and nurturing environment. The central Iowa nonprofit is recognized year after year for award-winning programming. Most recently, Jewels Academy received the 2021 Seal of Approval from the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council for their Young Emerging Scientist program.

Jewels Academy is an informal STEM organization. Informal education is "one of the three integral parts of the U.S. education system and the other two being K-12 and higher education¹."

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

"Jewels Academy inspired me and gave me the boost I need to keep treading on." - Dr. Carrington, Macon, GA

"Jewels Academy taught me that women can be exceptional professionals in STEM because gender is not a determinant in my ability to succeed." - Oule, Des Moines, Iowa



Friends of Jewels Academy

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please email: info@jewelsacademy.org



¹ National, Research Council, et al. *Learning Science in Informal Environments : People, Places, and Pursuits*, edited by Michael A. Feder, et al., National Academies Press, 2009. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uiowa/detail.action?docID=3378497>.