

I am well aware that being a scientist or researcher does not mean just being successful in research. At the same time one should be excellent in his/her **interactions with the community** and the students, in his/her role to **lead the academic society** and in responsibilities to **transform the community**. To this end, I have been engaged in several **volunteer activities**, such as, tutoring in high schools to attract especially female students' attention to science and math, guiding and encouraging female students from my undergraduate school, [REDACTED], to apply to graduate school, and mentoring younger female scientists through the [REDACTED] Women in Engineering network. At University [REDACTED], I mentor a female, minority undergraduate student for her undergraduate research project. I train her on building and characterizing on [REDACTED] for studying [REDACTED]. Next year, she will pursue her own research project on designing and developing [REDACTED], which will possibly lead to a journal publication. Hopefully, her research experience will carry her to one of the top graduate schools in US.

I aim to establish a role model as a women scientist and engineer for young generations (starting from high school level up to graduate school) in the US and in the Middle East. Being from a country close to the Middle East region, knowing the culture and people's perspective on **higher education for women** increases my enthusiasm in achieving my goal of **raising awareness of the contribution of women to the sciences and society**. However, my goal of being a role model for younger generations is not an easy task, very difficult to achieve through only personal efforts based on volunteer activities. A very effective way of increasing public awareness towards education of women in science and engineering is to use internet and news media to present exceptional women scientists to a wider public and increase their visibility. I plan on continuing to utilize the news media and internet more effectively in my efforts to inform the public on the impacts of women in higher education, scientific research, technology and science in addition to my volunteer activities.

I would like to build a web site or a portal for young female undergraduate students, which will allow them interact with other more senior scientists (mostly postdocs and faculty) to discuss their future plans on research, their current research projects or seek advice for the difficulties they have in their undergraduate research projects. The students will also be assigned to a volunteer mentor depending on their background and interests, who will give them the support to choose a career in science, engineering or technology. I will try to advertise this website on popular media outlets, science blogs and popular science journals. In addition to that, I believe visiting local high schools and presenting my research to high school students is another great way of communicating with younger generations and being a role model for the female students. I still cannot forget the questions that a young high school student asked me after my presentation on [REDACTED]. There is nothing more important than sparking a light in young bright minds.

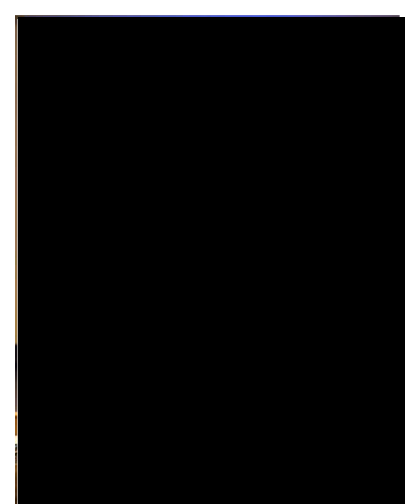


Fig: Presentation at high school.