This nomination is for the following award: **Outstanding Paraprofessional Award**

First Name **Jennifer**
Last Name **Salas**
Library Affiliation (if applicable) **Martin County Library System**
Title (if applicable) **Library Director**
Street Address **2351 SE Monterey Road**
City, State, ZIP **Stuart, FL 34996**
Telephone Number **772-221-1410**
E-mail Address jsalas@martin.fl.us
Are you nominating an individual or a group/organization for this award? **Individual**
First Name **Stephanie**
Last Name **Piccino**
Library Affiliation (if applicable) **Martin County Library System- Peter & Julie Cummings Library branch**
Title (if applicable) **Library Specialist**
Street Address **2551 SW Matheson Avenue**
City, State, ZIP **Palm City, FL 34990**
Telephone Number **772-288-2551**
E-mail Address spiccino@martin.fl.us

Is the nominator a member of FLA? **Yes**

Will you be submitting any supporting documentation? **Yes**

If you would like us to review web pages in consideration of this application (including videos or other supporting materials that are stored online), please enter the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) below.
https://youtu.be/ENcmklbqedo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM8V1as4aL8&t=17s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1WWW5my4io

Essay **"Lighting is everything, always. Photography comes from the Greek photos = light and graphe = drawing. Photography is drawing with light." Library Specialist Stephanie Piccino addresses the snAPPshots! Smart Phone class. There are 18 adults in the class meant for 8, due to a registration requirement error. No worries—she moves through the lesson plan and edits on the fly to cover as much as can be done with the crowded situation. It's just another day at the Peter & Julie Cummings Library in Palm City where she has been a Library Specialist since December 2012. Stephanie started as a part-time homework helper who brought teaching skills and a graphics art and TV production background to the first Martin County Library idea lab. She began helping staff and patrons navigate the idea lab's Adobe Creative Suite programs and photographic equipment. She joined the full-time staff and has worked closely with the digital literacy librarian to develop programs for teaching technology including a 3 level iPhone class which is now taught in several other locations, smartphone photography and photo storage solutions. Her daily interaction with patrons needing assistance gave**

her the insights for tailoring the class content to the typical Martin County patron's level of experience. She created tutorials to enable other staff to create professional videos using the idea lab resources to promote library programs, staff development, secure funding and record events documenting outcomes for grant reports. Drawing on her personal interest in game mechanics, online coursework and the library's long range service goals, Stephanie conceived a gamification project for encouraging staff development. The first year (2015-16) program consisted of 4 levels of achievement--bronze, silver, and gold, with a platinum top level for either completing all 12 badges or the most within the one year time period. Actual badges and pin banners were awarded monthly. The current year's (2016-17) offerings expanded to include more opportunities for all staff to encourage participation and engagement, increase professional development with a focus on technology skills, conference attendance and information sharing and collaboration within the system and the community. So far, over one hundred badges have been awarded. Creating graphics for badges is one of Stephanie's passions. She creates them not only for staff development—she designed Pokemon Go gym badges for each of the 6 library locations to award players, idea lab mascots for the staff and volunteers and to support youth programs like Dr. Who, Sherlock, Star Wars and Hello Kitty fandom events. She is equally at home behind the camera recording a robotics competition, a Smithsonian-sponsored local history exhibit or in front of a crowd discussing manga, "The Myth of Star Wars," or Google Photos. Badges are also the basis for Girl Scout achievements. Stephanie recognized scouting as a ready-made approach to bringing the public into the library to experience our idea lab and engage girls in STEM activities. She researched the badge requirements for technology and drafted lesson plans that would enable Brownies (2-3 gr.), Juniors (4-5 gr.) and Cadettes (6-8 gr.) to complete computer, digital photography or movie making badges in a series of classes at the library. Since the first workshop held during the summer of 2013, she has introduced the basics of photography, storytelling/scriptwriting, graphic design and computer use and safety to many local scouts. She wrote about the first year in an article published in Florida Libraries, Fall 2014, V. 57, N.2, pp. 23-26, "Scouting for Tech: My Year with the Girl Scouts at the Library." She has presented an updated poster session version at the New England Library Association Annual Meeting in October, 2016. She has been accepted to present it at the poster sessions for this year's FLA annual meeting and the Innovation Lab. The coursework for the Brownie Computer Expert badge, the Junior Scout Digital Photographer badge and the Cadette Movie Maker and Screenwriter badges are now being shared with other MCLS staff to offer at their locations now that they have idea labs in their branches. Stephanie has been part of the national library community since becoming a LITA blog writer in 2015. She has written on diverse topics including gamification, teaching technology, visual literacy, user experience and random thoughts on being a paraprofessional in a public library setting for this ALA division. She has been enrolled in the San Jose State University MLIS program and is currently studying at Florida State. She is exposing herself to the variety of professional options and the myriad directions in which a young library specialist may go. Stephanie has helped make the Peter & Julie Cummings Library a benchmark for our system's idea labs/technology skills teaching, staff development and patron support. The big blackboard in the idea lab features the ever-changing colorful, informative chalk drawings she creates each month to highlight a resource, program or skill. She has left her mark on dozens of girls who have found creative, powerful messaging tools while earning achievement badges. At one of the Dr. Who teen programs she facilitated, she overheard a teen say, "I don't have any friends at school, but I found friends here." Stephanie states this is a highlight of her career. Countless library patrons now communicate with ease on their devices, share

photos, Skype or download e-books and navigate online and in the library collection since encountering Stephanie. Library staff will proudly show you their badges that quantify the big and the small efforts that make working in the library rewarding. What is next for this dedicated library paraprofessional who wears her geek girl attributes as a badge of honor? Whatever it is, you can be sure she'll write about it, blog it or meet you at FLA to share it.

Summary **Stephanie Piccino is a full-time library specialist who goes beyond the basics of providing excellent customer service to patrons and staff by applying her unique style and interests to developing programs and projects that benefit the Martin County Library System, our community and the libraries across the state and the county. Her background in graphic design and TV production has guided her to producing technology classes for seniors to Brownie scouts. She created a gamification scheme to encourage staff development and has shared these and more through participation at conferences and on the LITA blogs and Florida Libraries.**

Accomplishment List

Homework Helper (February 2012 - November 2012)

- Led a book discussion group for "The Hunger Games" and "Holes"

- Directed a writing workshop intended to improve writing skills of third-graders

- Created the "Tech Tuesday" program, teaching kids ages 8-12 about technology   (programs such as Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel, photography, and film-making)   Photography event featured in local newspaper

- Designed a graphic used in the Martin County Library System's Long-Range Services Plan

- Created book display signs for teens for summer reading

- Participated in summer outreach programming at Palm City Elementary, creating crafts,   conducting storytimes, and leading fun activities

- Wrote staff tutorials on Photoshop and Illustrator

- It was because of my background in television production and digital media that   contributed to my being hired as a homework helper so I could help in the library's new "idea lab".

Library Specialist (December 2012 - present)

- Program Development and Outreach

  - Girl Scout tech badge program

    - Brownies - internet safety and research tips, creating animal fact posters
    - Juniors - digital photography: library photo scavenger hunt, photo editing
    - Cadettes - digital movie-making: scriptwriting, videography, editing, promotion via library YouTube page
    - Received "Community Award" from the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida

      - iPhone series

    - 101: different parts, what apps do what, how to download apps
      - Currently being taught at three different branches (Cummings, Morgade, Blake)
    - 201: organization, customization, scheduling
    - Advanced: fun tips and features you may not know

  - Introduction to Visual Design

    - Two-part presentation focusing on design elements, design history, and visual

semiotics
- snAPPshots: Smartphone Photography
  - General photography tips, organization and storage, sharing, and editing
  - Also used in the "Appy Hour" series

- "The Myth of 'Star Wars'"

  - A history of "Star Wars", how it fits Campbell's "Hero's Journey" and references Kurosawa, and the continued influence of "Star Wars"

- Google Photo

  - Part of a series on Google and its services
  - Focusing on photo storage, capabilities, and editing programs

  - "Talk Like a Pirate" library geocache event

  - Hello Kitty Reading Day program

  - Fandom programming

- Doctor Who 50th anniversary program

  - Other smaller-scale "Doctor Who" events

  - Created "Doctor Who" trivia quizlet in PowerPoint that cycled through questions and answers

- "Sherlock" fan event with crafts, games, and food

- "Marvel Movie Madness" event with movie screenings, games, and crafts

- Cat adoption event for "Adopt a Cat Month"

- Tech Tuesday for kids ages 8-12 (repeat of Homework Helper version of program)

- Pokemon Go badge program

- Designed unique "gym badges" for each of the six libraries in the system
- Patrons would present their "Pokemon Go" game to a staff member to receive a free branch "gym badge"

- Graphic Design

  - Design of "Glitch", the Cummings Library idea lab mascot

  - Creation of graphics promoting programming at various branches

- ○ Implemented "virtual photo booth"

    - Photograph patrons in front of green screen and superimpose backgrounds and scenery behind them

- ○ Draw various monthly chalkboard and whiteboard designs

- ○ Designed and pressed buttons for various events (Doctor Who, Marvel, Fanfest, promoting Lynda.com, Hello Kitty Day, Pokemon, etc.)

- Conferences Attended

    - ○ Florida Library Association, May 2015

    - ○ American Library Association, May 2016

    - ○ New England Library Association, October 2016

        - ○ Presented at the poster session "Scouting for Tech: My Year with Girl Scouts in the Library"

- Video Production

    - ○ Smithsonian "Journey Stories" exhibit

    - ○ Video tour of the Cummings Library

    - ○ Robotics Expo @ Your Library

- Social Media Team

    - ○ Researched and scheduled "Music Monday" posts for Facebook

    - ○ Promoting events on Facebook via photos, graphics, and text

    - ○ Taking photos of library events

- Fanfest Team

    - ○ Help in planning, set-up, and take-down of two Fanfest events

    - ○ Two panels: "Who's Doctor Who?" and "Manga Magic!"

- Staff Development

    - ○ Gamification of Staff Development

        - Worked with staff development specialist to devise new incentive program for employees of MCLS in recognition of their hard work

- Three tiers: Bronze, Silver, and Gold
- Badges or stickers awarded based on meeting specific criteria
- Twenty-five badges total (12 achievements, one badge for the most   achievements won)
- Currently in second phase, focusing more on technology development   with collaboration from Digital Literacy Librarian
- Working on a research paper documenting program

● Other

○ Awarded the Friends of Martin County Library scholarship for graduate study

○ Published "Scouting for Tech" article in Florida Library Association's fall 2014 journal
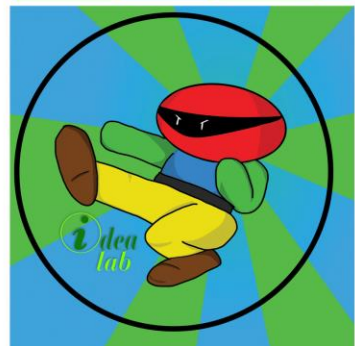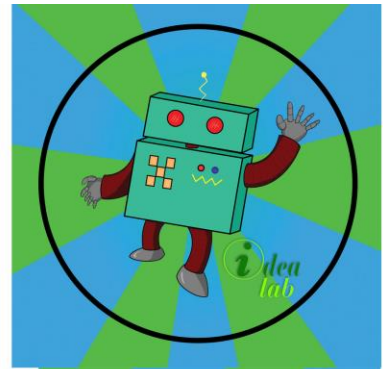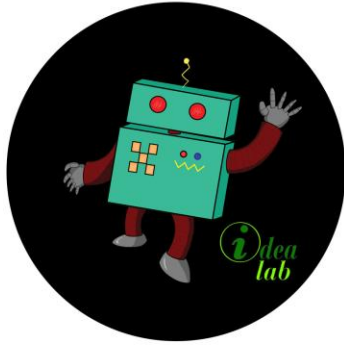
 LITA blogger 2015-16

○ Currently a student in Florida State University's Master's of Library and Information Science program

Glitch

the idea lab mascot
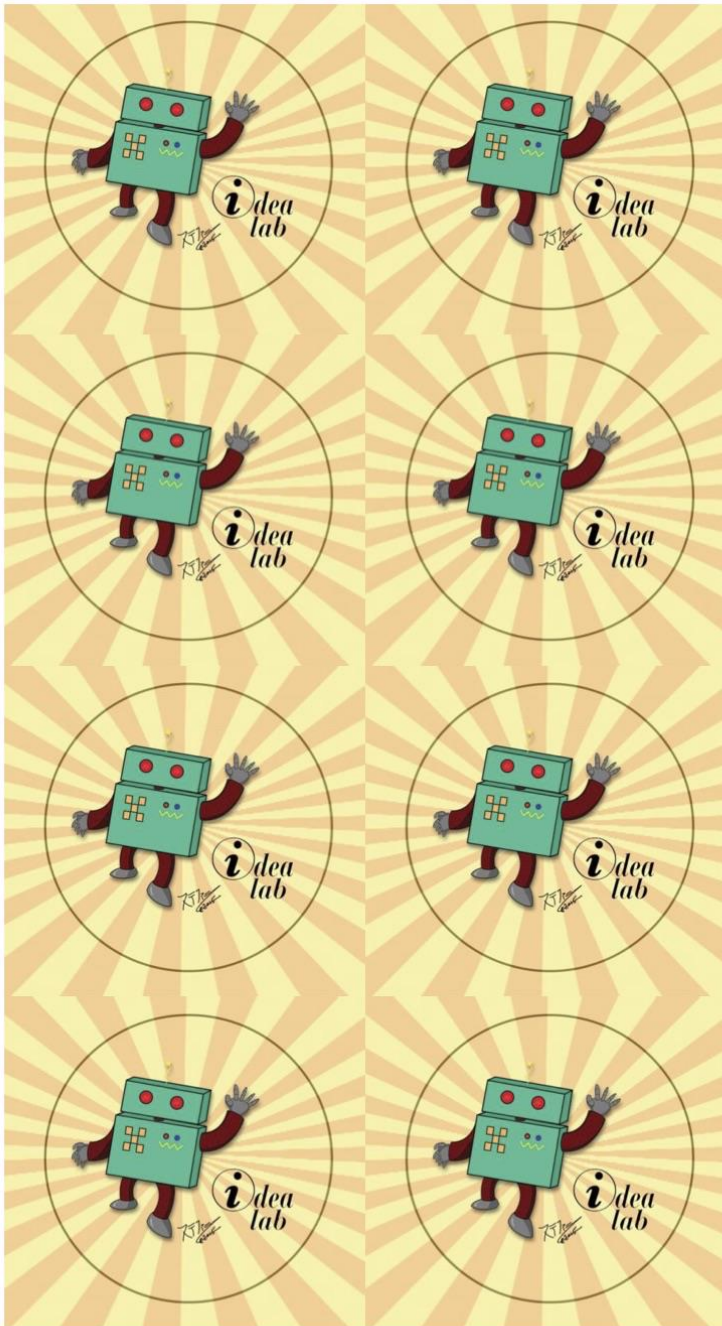
Dr. Who fans experience green screen photo booth

Stephanie!

Gamifying Staff Development

Gamification- is the concept of applying game mechanics and game design techniques to engage and motivate people to achieve their goals. Gamification taps into the basic desires and needs of the users impulses which revolve around the idea of status and achievement.

LRSP P1G2: Develop and maintain a well trained workforce that guides customers to accurate print and online information and assists them with technology

Objective: Gamify staff development and training with a badging system to increase participation, engagement, and learning amongst staff.

Goals:
- Encourage participation and staff engagement
- Increase professional development throughout organization
- Increase conference attendance
- Increase information sharing and collaboration

Time frame: Staff Day 2015(9/24/15) - Staff Day 2016 (9/8/2016)

Limit: 3/month maximum earned, additional badges earned will carry over and be awarded in the following month.

Report: Google form "Staff Development Achievements" is where earned badges are reported to Staff Development Specialist.

Badges reported but the last Friday of the month will be awarded and sent out the first Friday of the following month.

Achievements

Bronze Level:
Webinar Wizard - complete 3 webinars in 3 consecutive months, one per month
Verified: Staff training request form and blog posts (minimum 1 paragraph, answering the questions: What did I take away from this? And How am I going to apply what I learned?

Winning SMILE - Complete all MILE/SMILE training in a month's time
Verified: SMILE quizzes completed and submitted to Executive Aide

I'm Blogging This - Post/comment on Staff Blog 3 times in 3 consecutive months
Verified: Staff Blog entries at least 1 paragraph in length

Knowing is Half the Battle - Read one book on a professional topic and write a review on staff blog

Verified: Staff Blog book review

Silver Level:
Giving It Your 5% - use your 5% time to develop and share a project
Verified: 5% project document on T:/drive and project output

Showtime - Plan and present an event
Verified: plan or assist an event at your branch

Above and Beyond - Coworker nominates you for going 'above & beyond' in assisting them in a task or project
Verified: Staff would submit nomination for their peer on the same form used for reporting badges

Prepared for the Future - report on a piece of emerging tech
Verified: Post on staff blog, minimum 1 paragraph in length.

Gold Level:
Going the Distance - Attend a conference
Verified: Conference request form, attendance, and feedback after

The Ol' Switcheroo - Find a partner and switch branches for a week
Verified: By branch managers

The Write Stuff - Write/publish a professional article following MCLS guidelines
Verified: Follow the Professional Publication Submission Guidelines and provide link to article

Well Connected - Network with Library staff from other Library systems, find out about their system, position similarities and differences, cool programs/ services, etc.
Verified: Share details on staff blog. Who, where, and what is different/similar. Minimum 2 paragraphs.

Platinum Level:
Taskmaster - receive the most badges OR collect all 12 badges in a year's time
If someone receives all 12 badges (can be multiple people), he/she unlocks Taskmaster. If no one has collected all 12, whoever collects the most badges in a year's time (can be multiple people) unlocks Taskmaster. Awarded on Staff Day 2016.

Staff Development Achievements

Unlock achievements while you learn and train!
Check out the badges you can earn by completing each one.

BRONZE

Knowing Is Half The Battle

Read one book on a professional topic and write a review on the Staff Blog.

Webinar Wizard

Complete 3 webinars in 3 consecutive months.

I'm Blogging This

Post/comment on the Staff Blog 3 times in 3 consecutive months.

Winning Smile

Complete all MILE/SMILE training in one month's time.

SILVER

Giving It Your 5%

Use your 5% time to develop and share your project.

Showtime

Plan and present an event individually or with a partner.

Above and Beyond

Coworker nominates you for going above and beyond in assisting them accomplish a project.

Prepared for the Future

Report on a piece of emerging technology.

GOLD

Going the Distance

Attend a professional conference.

The 'Ol Switcheroo

Find a partner and switch branches for a week.

The Write Stuff

Write/publish a professional article.

Well Connected

Network with a Library staff from another Library system.

Staff Development Achievements

Unlock achievements while you learn and train!

Check out the badges you can earn by completing each one.

Bronze Level:

Webinar Wizard—Complete 3 webinars in 3 consecutive months, one per month.
Verified: Staff training request form and blog post feedback.
Winning SMILE—Complete all MILE/SMILE training in a month's time.
Verified: SMILE quizzes completed and submitted to Executive Aide.
I'm Blogging This—Post/comment on staff blog 3 times in 3 consecutive months.
Verified: Staff blog entries at least 1 paragraph in length.
Knowing is Half the Battle—Read one book on a professional topic and write a review on staff blog.
Verified: Staff blog book review (1 paragraph minimum).
Mac-Tastic—Take the Mac Basics course and write a review. [T:\LIB\PUBLIC-SERVICES\COMPUTER-CLASSES\idea lab Format\Mac Basics](T:\LIB\PUBLIC-SERVICES\COMPUTER-CLASSES\idea lab Format\Mac Basics)
Verified: Post your favorite Mac feature on the staff blog (1 paragraph minimum).
Branching Out—Pick a STEM kit and do the following:
- Build a project in WeDo
- Build and navigate a Sphero course
- Make something with Makey Makey

Verified: Take a picture or video (less than thirty seconds) of the final product and post to the staff blog with a short (1 paragraph) explanation.
Go Ask Lynda—Take a Lynda.com training relating to technology and post on the blog what you've learned.
Verified: Staff blog entry at least 1 paragraph in length.
Content Creator—Post one image on Instagram per month for three months that promotes your branch (programs, displays, building, collection, patrons, etc.), and then tag the Library.
 Verified: Approved of by branch's social media team liaison.

Silver Level:

Giving It Your 5% —Use your 5% time to develop and share a project.
Verified: Approved 5% project and blog your updates and about your progress.
Showtime—Plan and present an event.
Verified: Staff Development Specialist will review the events calendar.
Above and Beyond —Coworker nominates you for going 'above & beyond' in assisting them in a task or project.
Verified: Staff would submit nomination for their peer on the same form used for reporting badges.
Prepared for the Future —Report on a piece of emerging tech.
Verified: Staff blog entry at least 1 paragraph in length.
Test Drive—Play with something you don't already own (android tablet, flight sim, iOS…) and report on the staff blog the similarities/differences to something you do own.
Verified: Staff blog entry at least 1 paragraph in length.
Head in the Clouds—Learn about a cloud drive and report on the staff blog.
Verified: Staff blog entry at least 1 paragraph in length.
Picture Yourself—Use the pixlr tutorial guide to digitally insert yourself into any place you want to go (could be a movie, country, space, etc.).
Verified: Post your creation to the staff blog.

You can find the tutorial here: T:\LIB\PUBLIC-SERVICES\IDEA-LAB\Training_cheatsheets_userguides\photography tutorials\Pixlr Green Screen Tutorial.pdf

At a Glance—Create a library specific infographic using easel.ly, piktochart, infogr.am, visual.ly, You can get stats from Richard R., your branch manager, or use general stats from ALA. Post it to the staff blog.
Verified: Staff blog entry at least 1 paragraph in length.

Gold Level:

Going the Distance—Attend a conference.
Verified: Conference request form, attendance, and feedback after conference
Exchange Club—Find a partner with the same position and switch branches for a month.
Verified: Staff blog entry discussing similarities and differences between branches and any insights or observations you might have.
The Write Stuff—Write/publish a professional article following MCLS guidelines.
Verified: Follow the Professional Publication Submission Guidelines and provide a link to your article in the staff blog.
Well Connected—Network with Library staff from other Library systems, find out about their system, position similarities and differences, cool programs/ services, etc.
Verified: Share details on staff blog. Who, where, and what is different/similar. Minimum 2 paragraphs.
Passing the Torch—Design and implement a technology program/training and lead it at your branch for staff and public. Then take the program to a fellow branch and teach their staff.
Verified: Entry in the library calendar.
Lynda's my BFF—Take 3 Lynda.com classes in a calendar year (Staff Day to Staff Day).
Verified: Send a copy of your Lynda.com certificate of completion to the Staff Development Specialist.
Getting to Know You—Wix: create a free Wix website that shares something about you OR Make a short (2 minutes) video with a GoPro - can either be library-related or from your personal life.
Verified: Post link on staff blog with a short (1 paragraph) explanation.
Apple Picking—Pick a program - iMovie, iPhoto, and GarageBand - and create something with it and share on the staff blog.
Verified: Post creation on the staff blog with a short (1 paragraph) explanation.

Platinum Level:

Taskmaster—Receive the most badges in a year's time to unlock Taskmaster, awarded on Staff Day 2017.

Time Frame: Staff Day - Staff Day
Report Your Badges: Fill out form to report badges earned.
T:\LIB\ADMINISTRATION\STAFF-DEVELOPMENT\STAFF-DEVELOPMENT-INTERNET-LINKS\Staff Development Achievement Form
 Report your progress: To verify your progress, please report on the staff blog at least one paragraph about your experience with the achievement.
 Limit: 3 badges maximum awarded in one month, additional badges earned will be sent the following month.
 Awarded: First Friday of the month.

BRONZE

SILVER

Taskmaster

Scouting for Tech:
My Year with the Girl Scouts at the Library

By Stephanie Piccino

Admit it: You don't think "tech" when you think "Girl Scouts". You think of camping, crafts, and, of course, cookies. But these aren't your mom's Girl Scouts. They aren't even *mine*! Today, Girl Scouts are encouraged to explore the world of STEM - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics - so they can get the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. Here at the Martin County Library System, we have the tools to help them get there.

I've worked with multiple local Girl Scout groups over the past year to help them earn technology badges. I've watched girls between the ages of six and fourteen come up with spectacular digital photos, amazing posters about their favorite animals, and even write, direct, and edit a short digital film. In a world where girls are often pushed out of STEM before they have a chance to explore it, our library has helped many local girls take that first exciting step into a whole new world.

I had always been interested in, as I liked to put it, geekery: video games, graphic design, anything computer-related. I also had a desire to get more girls involved in geekery since many of them seemed turned off by the very idea of calling themselves "nerds" or "geeks", which I've always found disappointing.

According to a study conducted by the American Association of University Women, even though girls are now scoring higher than 700 on the math portions of their SATs,

many will not pursue STEM fields once they get into college. Moreover, those girls that do pursue STEM in college don't always follow through with it. Though STEM program retention rates from first-year studies to graduation are sixty percent for both men and women, as there are fewer women entering the field, these numbers are a point for discussion.

So why aren't girls following through with STEM careers? The American Association of University Women recently found that negative stereotypes of women and girls in fields that aren't considered "feminine" tend to push women and girls away from pursuing STEM careers. Even when boys and girls had similar skill levels in math, girls tended to downplay their abilities. Interestingly, girls were also found to believe they must outperform boys in order to be successful in traditionally "male" fields. With a lack of self-confidence and a need to be the best in order to succeed, no wonder girls are steering clear of STEM.

After working in the Martin County Library System as a homework helper in the Palm City branch, which had recently opened its tech-oriented "idea lab", my own ideas began to blossom. The library was looking for ways to get people from the community into the idea lab, and I still had some connections from when I worked with the local Girl Scout council. I researched different technology badges the girls could complete at our branch and spoke with my manager,

Carolyn Smith, about my ideas.

But even though I had the ideas and the support from my colleagues, we didn't have any Scouts; I had not heard from my contacts in the council and was about to give up on my plan. Then one day, a small troop of Junior Girl Scouts came in to work on a badge. I plucked up the courage to approach the troop leader and explain who I was and what the library offered. Interested, the troop leader, my manager, and I worked out a time for our very first badge workshop: digital photography.

I developed a lesson plan that fit with the badge requirements and, with some modifications, we came up with a library-friendly program that not only engaged the girls but taught them some photography essentials: what makes a

good picture, how to work with lighting, and some quick edits you can make on a computer. We gave the girls a scavenger hunt sheet, asking them to take pictures of ten objects in the library. This not only engaged them in the work, applying what they had just learned to real-life examples, but I also wanted to encourage their artistic eyes. We uploaded the pictures into our idea lab iMacs, made a few tweaks here and there, and then imported the edited pictures into Microsoft® Word to make Fathers' Day cards. The girls enjoyed themselves, had a lot of fun, and most importantly, got to play with some really cool technology.

Encouraged by the success of our first workshop, I started approaching more troop leaders as they came in and told them about our programs. As we got cameras into the hands

of more eight- and nine-year-old girls, something miraculous happened: troop leaders were coming to *us*, asking about our Girl Scout badge workshops and wanting to get their troops involved. It turned out that word-of-mouth had been our best advertisement.

As knowledge of our workshops grew, so did our audience. Brownie Girl Scouts, girls between six and eight years old, came in to learn basic computer skills. Not only did they learn about Internet safety and how to look up images on Google, they also learned how to save those images to a computer, paste them into a PowerPoint slide, and how to cut and paste text. They also got a very basic introduction to typography as they experimented with fonts, text sizes, and text colors to get exactly the results they wanted. Plus, the Brownies got to take their posters home.

The most exciting project, and possibly the most complex we'd yet done, was a dual-badge program for Cadette Girl Scouts. Cadettes, older girls between twelve and fourteen, had to create and edit a short film. My undergraduate degree is in television production, so I was beyond excited to get a group of girls behind the camera. I suggested to the troop leader we could also work in a scriptwriting badge to give them the full production experience. Over the course of three meetings, as opposed to our usual stand-alone workshop, the Cadettes wrote and storyboarded a script, directed each scene, worked behind the camera, and put it all together into a one-minute short, which we posted on the Martin County Library's YouTube page: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM8V1as4aL8

There have, of course, been challenges, namely in having enough people around to help the girls with technical questions and keep them on task. The troop leaders often are the ones to rein the girls in, but sometimes I'd need a little bit more help. Our Digital Literacy Librarian at the time, Justin de la Cruz, came to the rescue and made sure the girls had the help they needed; he led a digital photography workshop when I was unable to, and he even made a guest appearance in the Cadettes' short video.

Another issue was how our branch was often short-staffed. It became a challenge to schedule troop visits around times when we had the staff to cover all of our regular bases. There were times when I myself was leading both a Girl Scout troop and helping patrons at the same time. I can't thank my fellow staff members enough for helping out whenever they could and rising to the occasion when we needed it most. Our badge workshops, as well as other programs we host, wouldn't be what they were without their help and support.

Over the year in which we've had our badge workshops, local Girl Scouts have not only learned amazing things but created works of art they are rightfully proud of -- and their leaders and our staff are also proud of. But we don't want to stop there. We want to eventually have similar badge workshops at all the branches of the Martin County Library System, so I have made all of my lesson plans readily available for all staff to access. As we implement more technology throughout the county, I am confident we can replicate these workshops with relative ease.

Our next step is to get Boy Scouts in our lab as well. They have a good deal more technology badges to earn, and some are more complex and more detailed than those for the Girl Scouts. If we want all Martin County children to have the same opportunities, we must afford the Boy Scouts of our area the same fun opportunities as we have for the Girl Scouts.

Though digital photography and basic computer skills aren't exactly hard science like electronics engineering or complex calculus, sometimes all it takes is one small foot in the door. Today's digital photographer using a library camera could be tomorrow's forensic scientist photographing a crime scene. Basic computer skills such as Google searching and fact-finding can spur a girl toward research and data collection, two things very crucial to a career in a STEM field. Giving the girls the confidence that they may need to take whatever step is next in their journey has been a

highlight of our workshops and partnerships with the Girl Scouts.

It is my goal - as well as that of the Martin County Library System - to get as many kids as I can into STEM-related activities. It is a personal goal to get more girls into STEM, and working for the Martin County Library has allowed me to do just that. I hope to one day expand our offerings and see programs like the ones I have developed implemented throughout Florida and possibly the country. I want to make these programs bigger, better, and accessible for girls everywhere. I have the proof that these programs not only work but can draw a crowd as well. I can't wait to see what the next year brings.

NOTES

Hill, Catherine, PhD., Christianne Corbett, Andresse St. Rose, Ed.D. "Why so few? Women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics". *American Association of University Women* (2010): 1-28. Web. 20 May 2014. http://www.aauw.org/resource/why-so-few-women-in-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics/

Stephanie Piccino is the stereotypical library employee: wears glasses, drinks tea, and likes cats. An avid reader and geek, she plans to start her MLIS from San José State University this spring.