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Local Businesses Sought

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria is seeking local businesses to partner with its Eureka! Program by sponsoring an extern to support, mentor, and encourage this summer as she navigates the workforce for the first time.

Eureka! is a five-year, college-bound program that encourages girls to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Through engaging, hands-on activities, girls are able to discover and explore different career paths, and the program also includes fitness, nutrition, and personal-development activities that encourage girls to be healthy, strong, and self-confident.

In the third year of the program, Eureka! shift their programming to the workplace. After a week of training, the teens are offered an externship in their fields of interest and work approximately 80 hours over four weeks in July. "Our goal is to better prepare local teens for college and to engage in an increasingly competitive job market, becoming models of strong, smart, and bold success," said **Victoria Juarez**, executive director of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. "We ask the local business community to help us develop the next generation of professional female leaders by becoming an extern host." The program pairs externs with businesses throughout Santa Barbara County for this experiential work opportunity.

Girls Inc. launched the summer externship last year for its third-year participants, and the results proved successful for both the externs and the local businesses, including Summerland's Waxing Poetic. "I learned about all the components that make a successful business function," said **Alisa Lemere**, a Girls Inc. of Carpinteria member and Eureka! participant who completed her externship last summer with Waxing Poetic founder **Patti Pagliei**. "I got to spend time with the sales team, design team, accountants, customer service team, and many other wonderful people. Overall, the experience was amazing and I loved being a part of this awesome company."

Waxing Poetic will be participating in the summer externship program

again this summer, and Girls Inc. hopes to attract other Summerland and Montecito businesses.

Business professionals interested in sponsoring a Girls Inc. Eureka! extern should contact **Kayla Cherland** at (805) 684-6364. For more information about the Eureka! Program, please visit www.girlsinc-carp.org.