

Williams To Present 'In TIME, Students Become Scientists' – Brevard NC

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Jennifer Williams, a physics, chemistry and research science instructor at [Brevard High School](#), will be giving a presentation on the T.I.M.E. program, which she co-founded in 2006 with a generous grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. This unique program is the product of a partnership between [Transylvania County Schools](#) and 4H Youth Development.

The program will be presented at AAUW's branch meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd across from Ingles at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

TIME stands for the program mission and Williams' belief that if students are given adequate "Time" to engage in true "Inquiry" into their own questions, and find that they and their new findings "Matter" to others, they will continue to "Explore" more opportunities in science.

This program is the only one like it in the country. It is not a science course; it is a research laboratory in which students conduct their own experiments and research into areas they are curious about to find the answers to questions they have. Teachers and scientific experts volunteering in the program act as mentors and guides, not as traditional teachers using textbooks and giving assignments and tests. This program gets students "out of the books" and into real scientific discovery.

Williams said, "We work with students as co-learners instead of already knowing the answers. It's such a big difference."

Williams describes the germination of the TIME program: "My passion for engaging students in scientific research stemmed from my graduate work at UNC Wilmington. I was fascinated by asking my own questions, searching the literature, talking to experts in my field, and designing and conducting my own experiments. I realized that I wanted my students to experience this fascination with doing real science."

She was not deterred by college professors who told her this could not be done with high school students.

The impact of this program on students is life-changing. At the <http://www.time4realscience.org> website, one student said, "Oh man, this is the greatest thing ever!" Another said, "Anything you want to do, you can see if it's possible and this program allows you to do it."

One young woman summed up her career aspirations, "I definitely just want to do research and I discovered that in the TIME program."

Last year, the [Brevard AAUW](#) branch provided funds to send two [Brevard High School](#) rising sophomores in the TIME program (one of whom had previously received an AAUW scholarship to participate in the Clemson WISE program) to the national American Association for the Advancement of Sciences meeting in San Jose, Calif.

These two girls had been invited to present their work after winning first place in biological sciences at the [North Carolina Student Academy of Science](#). While at the national AAAS meeting, they presented their work to their peers and scientists from across the country.

Join AAUW in welcoming Williams, a most remarkable research scientist, mentor and extraordinary teacher.

Williams received her B.S. in science education/chemistry from NCSU and her M.S. in marine science/chemistry from UNC Wilmington where she studied natural products from marine microorganisms. She has been teaching science and math for 17 years in [Transylvania County](#).

AAUW's mission is to promote equity for all women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, education and research.

The primary fundraising activity of the branch is the annual book sale held the third week in June at [Brevard College](#)'s Boshamer Gym. For anyone wanting to make a large book donation at any time this year, contact Raoul Gagne at or call (828) 877-2588 to have AAUW members come by and pick up your books.

The yellow book collection boxes will be going out to area businesses in February.

Proceeds from the book sale are used to fund scholarships for [Transylvania County](#) girls and young women to attend [Brevard College](#), [Blue Ridge Community College](#), Green River Preserve Camp and Clemson University's WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) program.

The branch takes great pride in the fact that their book sale is a community-driven operation, with books coming from the community and scholarships going back to the community.

More information about the branch and its many activities is available on their website at <http://brevard-nc.aauw.net>.

For membership information, contact Judy Lauter at 862-4890 or Kathy Piersol at (828) 862-8792. The American Association of University Women is open to all graduates who hold a two-year associate degree (or equivalent) or higher degree from an accredited college or university.