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*Kelly Buchanan speaks to a Girls4Tech group about MasterCard's business.*

## Highlights

- St. Louis recently hosted its first Girls4Tech program for 50 students with the help of 50 volunteers.
- Hands-on activities demonstrated how technology is used to create safe, simple and smart payments.
- Students learned about career opportunities in STEM fields.

## Girls4Tech Ignites STEM Exploration



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Our St. Louis employees recently hosted the office's inaugural Girls4Tech (formerly [Tech Masters](#)) event. In total, 50 middle school-aged girls and more than 50 enthusiastic employee volunteers came together with a goal of exploring science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts and careers.

The Girls4Tech program introduces students to inquiry-based curriculum that ties MasterCard's foundational technology to STEM principles.

"Girls4Tech is a cornerstone program that supports MasterCard's work around Women in Technology (WIT) to inspire young girls to pursue STEM both in their education and future careers," says Kelly Buchanan, senior business leader and O&T chief of staff. "We are looking forward to building on the momentum of this pilot and using the interactive curriculum to inspire the next generation of potential technologists."

Throughout the day, students took part in hands-on activities that demonstrate how technology is used to create safe, simple and smart payments. Each lesson provided an overview of a technology subject and a fun, interactive activity. Volunteers were trained on the curriculum prior to the day so that they could provide the best interaction with students.

"Volunteering was not only fun, but it was a great way to help girls grasp the 'so what' behind technology and spark their interest in STEM subjects," says Ann Brinckwirth, senior business leader. "Being exposed to real-world applications of technology is what brought me into a technology career, and I hope we can do the same for these students."

Also, the students learned about career opportunities in STEM fields. They discovered more about technology careers through fun activities and a tour that included presentations on various careers at MasterCard.

[Learn more about Girls4Tech](#) and watch videos of the program kickoff in Purchase.

*Photo above right: Melissa Goode, Sateesh Gowda and Kate Fischer guide students through an activity on cryptology.*



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Lester, Mary



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