



Contact: Paul A. Johnson
Phone: (631) 537-8250
E-mail: Paul@CMEE.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AWARDED GRANT TO SUPPORT A NEW MATH PROGRAM FOR LATINA GIRLS

Bridgehampton, NY – Today, the Children's Museum of the East End announced that it has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from FHI 360, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. The funding will be used to support an afterschool program designed to foster the development of positive mathematics identities of Latina girls ages 10-13. Entitled *Empowering Latina Girls Through Statistical Knowledge*, the 10-week course will strengthen participants' analytical skills while enabling students to better share their views inside and outside the mathematics classroom.

The initiative grew out of *Ciencia*, an afterschool science program at the Museum that serves Latino children ages 5 to 9 and their caregivers. Museum staff members were concerned about declining interest in science and math among girls after they graduated the program. According to one US Department of Education study, 31% of elementary school age girls say they are good at math. In middle school that number falls to just 18%. That same study notes that "improving girls' beliefs about their abilities could alter their choices and performance ... particularly as they move out of elementary school and into middle and high school."

"While the initial goal is to foster mathematics confidence in Latina girls living in the East End," said Leah Oppenheimer, the Museum's Director of Community Outreach, "we expect to replicate the program regionally and provide professional development training to middle school teachers locally, regionally and nationally through the Association of Children's Museums conferences and publications."

Collaborating on the project will be Dr. Anahu Guzman, the Director of the Math Center at LIM College. Dr. Guzman will use *Empowering Latina Girls Through Statistical Knowledge* to further his research on the subject of gender differences in mathematics education.

"It is important to understand that the construction of mathematics identities is an on-going process," said Dr. Guzman. "The *Empowering Latina Girls through Statistical Knowledge* program will give us an opportunity to identify factors that may foster the development of positive mathematics identities and empower girls to fight the misconceptions about their ability to do mathematics."

About the Children's Museum of the East End (CMEE)

The Children's Museum of the East End is one of the most visited museums in Eastern Long Island, and welcomes over 70,000 visitors annually. The Museum opened in 2005 and offers over 7,000 square feet of interactive, hands-on exhibits, classrooms, and performance space. CMEE's mission is "to spark imagination and foster learning for children of all backgrounds and abilities and to build strong connections within the East End community by providing playful experiences." For more information, please visit www.cmee.org.

About FHI360

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a



unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories. To learn more, visit www.fhi360.org.

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For more information about *Empowering Latina Girls Through Statistical Knowledge*, please contact:

Paul A. Johnson

Paul@CMEE.org

631.537.8250 x 209