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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grace Guilette, a Kimberly Senior, Participated in Syracuse University's Program Aimed at Introducing Young Women to the Information Studies Field

Kimberly, Wis. – October 15, 2019 – Grace Guilette, a senior at [Kimberly High School](http://kimberlyhighschool.com), recently returned from a weekend retreat at [Syracuse University](http://syracuse.edu) where she learned about the information studies field with other young women from across the country. Grace was selected for the [It Girls Overnight Retreat](#) program and also received a scholarship to attend.

The It Girls Overnight Retreat is a weekend event where young women who are juniors or seniors in high school can learn more about the field of information technology (IT). Over the weekend of October 6-7, 2019, It Girls meet barrier-breaking role models from the tech industry, take workshops from cutting-edge faculty, and connect with the university's [School of Information Studies \(iSchool\)](#) students and professional women in corporate and academic IT careers.



Grace Guilette, pictured in the center of the front row, is a senior at Kimberly High School who recently participated in Syracuse University's It Girls Overnight Retreat.

“My experience at the It Girls Retreat was heart-warming and inspirational,” said Grace Guilette. “It provided me many connections with other women interested in information studies, being the foundation of a career path for the 100+ girls that were there.”

The students who participate in It Girls were able to:

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- Take a faculty-led iSchool class, participate in hands-on workshops, and complete a large culminating project.
- Connect with professional women in the IT field and notable iSchool alumni.
- Attend a dinner banquet featuring an inspirational and motivating keynote speaker.
- Engage in team-building leadership activities.
- Participate in an evening social activity.
- Build lasting connections with like-minded peers.

According to the website for It Girls, “Throughout history, women have made extensive contributions in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Whether it is Sally Ride, who transformed history by being the first American woman to fly into space, or Katherine Johnson, whose historical contributions to STEM were captured in ‘Hidden Figures.’ The STEM fields should be open to all. Yet, across the US there is a lack of gender diversity in STEM fields. Although women made up 57.2 percent of all professional workers in 2015, they comprised only 46.6 percent of science professionals, 24.7 percent of computer and math professionals, and 15.1 percent of engineering and architecture professionals. The scarcity of women in STEM fields is a long-standing and persistent problem.”

What is It Girls?

The It Girls Overnight Retreat began in 2011 when Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies (iSchool) wanted to build confidence, inspire and create a pathway for girls to study Information Technology as an academic discipline. An essential piece of the program involves creating meaningful connections between professional women, iSchool staff, faculty, current students and iSchool alumni who work in the IT industry. Participants meet like-minded driven students and build lifelong connections and friendships. Of course, the event incorporates a lot of fun activities, too.

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“I am extremely grateful to have received the opportunity to travel to Syracuse and can't wait to see how the program evolves and grows in the future,” said Grace.

In addition to participating in the It Girls Retreat, Grace has completed numerous advanced classes at Kimberly High School, including several in the computer science field.

She has successfully completed five AP courses: Human Geography, English Language and Composition, Calculus AB, Computer Science Principles and United States History. This year, she is taking three more AP courses: Computer Science A, Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.

Grace also has an interest in marketing and is currently serving as an officer for the DECA Chapter at KHS. She participates in many co-curricular activities at KHS including Project Green, Life-Force, Link Crew, National Honor Society and Young Women in the Community. She also belongs to the KHS swim and track and field teams. Grace recently joined the [Women in Technology \(WIT\)](#) organization.

Outside of her school activities, Grace works for the Green Bay Packers Pack Attack squad and VF Corporation. On the horizon for this coming summer is a trip to Costa Rica with the Kimberly High School Spanish class where students will be able to experience the culture of the country first-hand and apply their language skills in authentic real-life settings. After graduation, Grace plans on attending college in order to pursue a double major in marketing and information technology.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential



Kimberly senior Grace Guilette in front of Syracuse University's historic Hendricks Chapel during the It Girls Retreat.

through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,000 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit www.kimberly.k12.wi.us.

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