



The Branch

September 2024
Vol 75. Issue 1



September Branch Meeting Saturday, September 7

Meet and greet old friends and make new friends. Learn about our interest groups and other branch activities.

Lower level of the Wharfinger Building, One
Marina Way, Eureka

9:30 a.m. Social
10:00 a.m. Brunch

Menu - Bagels & Cream Cheese, Assorted

Muffins, Coffee or Tea, Orange Juice.

*Cost \$12.00

Coffee & Tea only. Cost \$8.00

Members are encouraged to BYOFJ (bring your own favorite jam or jelly)
homemade or store bought to share with your table.

Please make your reservation by clicking [here](#) by Wednesday, September 4. you may
also make a reservation by calling Carolyn Miller at 707-798-1503

*Cost includes room rental, clean-up, supplies, food &/or beverages.

2024-2025 AAUW Humboldt Branch Leadership

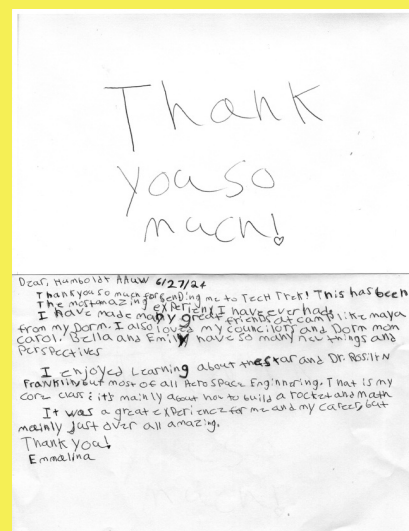
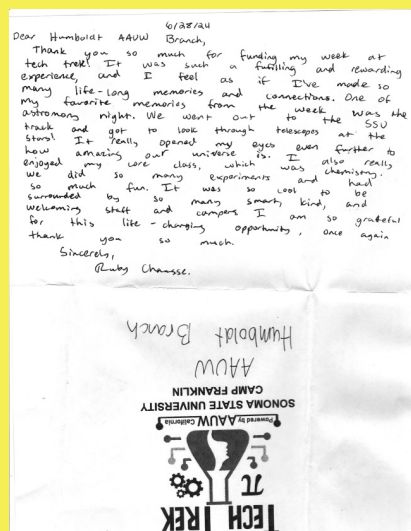
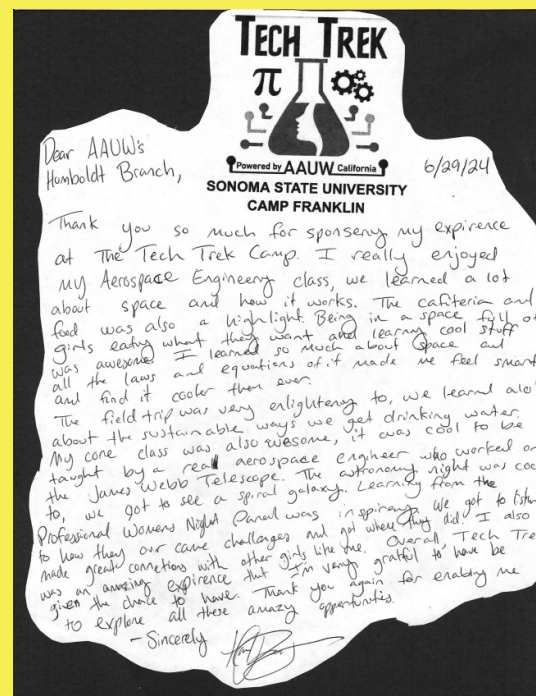
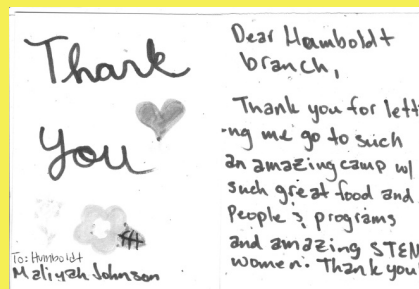
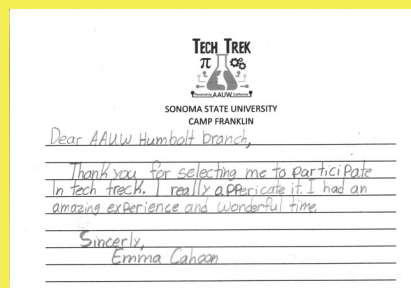
Co-presidents: Elizabeth Haynes and Nancy Dean

Vice President: Nancy Arroyo

Treasurer: Katie Wright

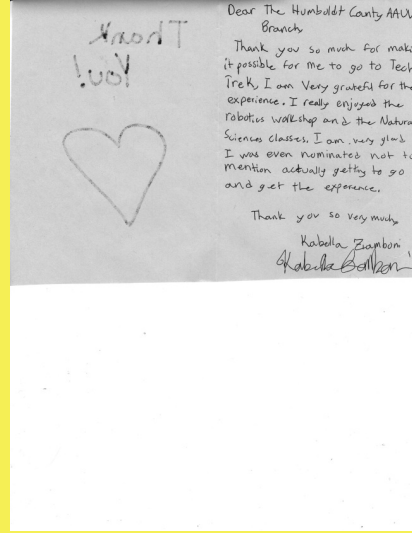
Secretary: Becky MacQuarrie

Tech Trek 2024



Clearly attending Tech Trek camp was a life changing experience for the six young

women we sent this year. Enjoy their letters!



2024 Updates to Title IX: An Overview of Changes and Challenges

By Missy Maceyko, Co-chair, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes rework

Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors and expanding Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as pregnant and parenting students.

In sum, the 2024 regulations clarify what sex-based discrimination is and who should be protected from sex-based discrimination under Title IX: the regulations prohibit discrimination not only on the basis of sex, but also on the basis of sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Many of the major changes in guidance under Title IX come from a centering of the term “sex-based,” including a redefinition of “sexual harassment” as “sex-based harassment.” Under this redefinition, sex-based harassment still includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, but, importantly, allows harassment to be defined as conduct that contributes to the creation of a sex-based hostile environment, more broadly. This means that unwelcome sex-based conduct can be more holistically understood as problematic, including a consideration of conduct that is not only offensive but also so severe or pervasive that it limits one’s ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity.

The 2024 guidance also reforms the process for reporting, hearing, and resolving Title IX complaints, which is an important shift, as guidance issued under the Trump Administration created a reporting environment that many experts agreed was [friendlier to those accused of misconduct than to those who were victimized by misconduct](#).

Because the focus of Title IX guidance has shifted to protecting against “sex-based” forms of discrimination and harassment, it also clarifies the boundaries of pregnancy-related discrimination and expands protections to the LGBTQ+ community. Both of these expansions under Title IX [align with current interpretations of federal law under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act](#), which prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender.

While the changes to Title IX have been [widely supported as an overall good](#) by a wide coalition of gender equity advocates, including [AAUW National](#), a coalition of states and conservative advocacy organizations have started to file lawsuits [to block the new rules](#) from going into effect, as scheduled, on August 1, 2024. Furthermore, at the time of this writing, [at least eight states](#)’ governors have issued executive orders that openly refuse to

comply with the new guidance, putting their state universities at risk of losing all federal funding.

Officials who have filed suit and/or who refuse to comply with the new Title IX guidance claim that the rules conflict with their state laws, especially those aimed at the due process rights of those accused of misconduct, [LGBTQ+ material in curricula](#), and the regulation of transgender students' access to bathrooms and sports teams. Therefore, these state officials claim that they should not have to follow the new guidance.

For a concise overview of major rule changes under the 2024 guidance, check out the coverage in *Ms. Magazine*, [here](#). For continued updates, you can also peruse upcoming issues of [Public Policy News](#) via AAUW California throughout the summer.

The Branch is published eight times a year by the Humboldt Branch of AAUW. Submissions of articles, news items and photos from members are welcome. Submit them by the 20th of each month to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com.

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AAUW | PO Box 5116 | Eureka, CA 95502 US

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