Kelli Ligeikis remembers the face of every female engineering major she graduated with from Colgate University 30 years ago. She can count them on both hands — about 10 girls out of a class of 120.

Even today, Ligeikis — now dean of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, curriculum at SUNY Broome Community College — said the number of men in those courses dwarfs the number of women. Getting young women interested in the field early in their education would even the playing field, she said.

Engineering is a male-dominated field: Nationally in 2010, women constituted only 13 percent of the engineering workforce, according to the National Science Foundation’s 2014 Science and Engineering Indicators.

“If (women) have the opportunity to be exposed in high school, they have a better understanding of what the field actually is,” said Ligeikis, 51. “You can talk with them about the career and what engineering offers to people in terms of not just job opportunities

✔️, but how you can better the world.”

Binghamton High School officials are attempting just that by recently recruiting more young women into Project Lead

✔️ The Way, a five-course engineering program spanning all four years of high school. Upon completion, students — both male and female — earn college credits transferable to SUNY Broome or Rochester Institute of Technology.

Recently, the number of students completing the entire Project Lead The Way program

✔️ dropped, said Miriam Purdy, assistant principal and chairperson of the math and technology departments in the high school. She did not have specific numbers on how many female students have participated in the program, but the number of students taking the program’s five courses dropped about 11 percent from the 2011-12 school year to the 2013-14 school year.

She said she believes the drop may be a result of the many other extracurricular options available to students.

In trying to staunch the flow of students out of the program, she said, she realized how few girls were involved. She and other organizers for Project Lead The Way took steps to get more girls in the program for the 2014-15 school year: