MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH

FOR

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Hello everyone!!! Thank you all for being here. (**If you want to mention how long this program has been offered you can say**) This is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ year that GE Healthcare has offered this weeklong session for immersion into mathematics and engineering. To have the chance to work with you girls to spark some interest, pose some questions… even the tough ones…. and to support you in finding the way to answer the questions as you find **even more** to ask… has truly been a gift for **all of us**. To my colleagues and associates, I am sure you are as impressed as I am to witness the interest and passion these young students have demonstrated thanks to their participation in this very special workshop. To the parents and family members of our course attendees, your encouragement and support for these young people to have this experience- to learn and grow, is so much more precious than you can imagine, and to you, our participants, I know I speak for **all** of the adults here today when I say how inspired and humbled we are to witness your interest, your willingness, and your commitment to your future-and ours as a **[global?]** community.

We are here today, in this room, getting to know each other a little more as we get a taste of the world outside of the one we’re used to. We see each other, we share little bits about ourselves, but for the most part we tend to accept things at face value. The work we did this past week has given us a glimpse of what lies beneath the surface…. of a math problem… after all, what we see at first is just a bunch of numbers… or a situation that might need to be solved based on (**mention one of the engineering sessions**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Before you walked into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ three days ago, you saw \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as just a machine. Now you know a bit more of the inner workings and how something needs to be designed efficiently in order to save lives. And you see me, standing here in front of you… I’m an executive at GE, world traveler, someone who is responsible for... as we say in business, “a lot of moving parts.” But I have to tell you that when I was a young girl, your age growing up in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I would never even have been able to imagine being in a place like this today…. but something inside me kept speaking to me… encouraging me… pushing me on to reach further than my circumstances… you see, I grew up with practically nothing… impoverished… some of the kids you know may be upset that they don’t have the newest technology or an unlimited texting plan… my family didn’t even have a phone… we didn’t have a car…. we lacked so many of the things our friends and neighbors took for granted… but the **ONE** thing I had was a belief in myself and the drive to do what I had to do to achieve my goals. And that determination really took me places…I was the first person in my family to go to college. The first time I was ever on a plane was when I had to travel on a business trip!!! Imagine being nervous enough to get the job done… But then you have to get there first!! (**Say that with emphasis and wait for the laugh**).

I’m proud to say that my curiosity and determination took me many places in my career… Since that first trip I’ve traveled to over twenty-five countries throughout the world working with dozens of clients to see what can be done to support their healthcare needs. I launched my first global product in Africa in an effort to improve conditions and promote safe surgical procedures. That was in (**name the year**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Can you imagine how many lives have been saved thanks to the outreach we achieved by that product launch? And that’s just one example. I dedicate almost 25% of my year to traveling all over the world-from Israel to Sweden to China… I have had an incredible career and the chance to work with different cultures and people has been one of the greatest gifts of my life. I now work on multi-million dollar transactions, but I am still that same person that had that persistent dream to learn, to grow, and to discover the world.

Of course it was thanks to my mother’s inspiration and my family’s love and support that I found that inner strength to look further than my circumstances and I take that love and support with me where ever I go, and whether it’s a small town in Sweden or a village in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**name a country in Africa that you visit**), I take my family’s encouragement and spirit with me.

Each one of **YOU** has that same drive and that voice within you that encourages you. I invite you to keep listening to it. It got you here today. Each one of you students is at the point in your life where you will begin to see that the world offers choices… if you’re interested and curious enough to want to look. Every one of us has her own set of challenges…. but it is up to us to turn them into opportunities… like you’ve done this week. A long time ago Helen Keller said, “Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing.” I want you all to know that I know for each one of you that “nothing” is **not an option**. You have already shown us your potential and it’s wonderful!! **Believe in yourselves**. Believe in the strength of your curiosity. Keep being interested… this world is a fascinating place… there’s so much to see and to learn… and on behalf of GE, we want to thank you for reminding us how exciting discovery and knowledge can be! Thank you all!