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The Woods Academy launches entrepreneurial and leadership summer program for Kindergarten through Grade 8 students

Bethesda | INSERT DATE -- As our lives become increasingly driven by technology, children need the skills and expertise to thrive in this new environment. *The Entrepreneurial Leadership and Innovation (ELI) Lab @TheWoodsAcademy* infuses popular STEAM concepts (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math) with a liberal arts curriculum, preparing children for the work they will perform in high school, higher education, and beyond.

The ELI Lab is a program and space for Kindergarten through Grade 8 Woods students and students from our greater community to apply critical 21st century skills in real-world situations. They learn how to use complex technology, express themselves, solve problems, and create opportunities as innovators, leaders, and entrepreneurs. In half-day and full-day week-long summer sessions, they participate in authentic projects and gain applicable skills that include collaboration, critical thinking, communication, character, and creativity.

The ELI Lab programs fall into four categories and are taught by experienced Woods faculty, other seasoned teachers, and business professionals.

- ***Entrepreneurship and Investment*** explores personal finance, investing, public speaking, and entrepreneurship. Students have the chance to start their own businesses and connect with entrepreneurs and business leaders.
- ***Science and Food*** brings students closer to the methods used in food production by exploring the science of food and promoting inquiry, health, and wellness
- ***Computer programming and coding, including robotics*** combines science, technology, engineering, programming, and math to teach the skills for the modern world, including creativity and communication, through real-world experiences and complex physical and digital creations.
- ***Leadership*** bridges a significant gap in leadership development and improves critical skills while providing a keen understanding of the social and environmental issues impacting the world around us.

Joe Powers, The Woods Academy Head of School and one of the program's architects, is excited about the opportunities The ELI Lab – the first of its kind for young children – will provide to current Woods students and students in the surrounding area.

"Young learners," he explains, "sometimes struggle to apply what they learn in a traditional classroom. The Woods leads in the development and delivery of forward-looking Kindergarten through Grade 8 curriculum, and The ELI Lab expands on our pioneering programs. In The ELI Lab, students practice real-world application, mimicking those situations they'll experience outside the classroom. Our goal is to prepare kids for tomorrow, today."

The future of The ELI Lab
As The ELI Lab expands to include school year programming, students will have even more opportunities to learn how to succeed in our changing world. Ultimately, The ELI Lab will establish vibrant Public-Private partnerships, as it continues to become an indispensable member of the community. The ELI Lab will also afford The Woods Academy faculty numerous opportunities to lead, direct, and implement programs.

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About The Woods Academy
The Woods Academy is a private, co-ed Catholic school that serves approximately 300 students age 3 to Grade 8. Located in Montgomery County, Maryland, our students come from throughout the Washington DC Metropolitan area, including Montgomery County, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our comprehensive education includes strong academics, a daily world language program, hands-on technology instruction, and a well-rounded arts program. Here, children come to discover their talents, grow in their faith, challenge themselves, and foster a strong desire to lead lives of significance. To learn more about our engaging curriculum, visit our web site at www.woodsacademy.org, or contact us at (301) 365-3080.