

CWSE-Prairies Newsletter

December 2013
Volume 2 Issue 3



*The goal of the
NSERC CWSE – Prairies*

*is to develop and successfully lead
strategic activities that promote
greater opportunities for women,
particularly Aboriginal women, in
science and engineering across the
Prairie Region.*

Gender Summit 2013

Established in 2011, the Gender Summit has become the foremost forum for engaging top-level researchers, policy makers, science and innovation leaders, and other and stakeholders in STEM, to address gender issues in research and innovation.

Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, Jenna Rapai, and Selena Randall from the University of Manitoba, as well as Laleh Behjeet from the University of Calgary represented the CWSE Prairies team in Washington, DC.



The 2013 forum leveraged the international capacity in advancing the knowledge base about the influence of gender considerations on the efficacy, quality and success of various sectors in promoting discovery and innovation in the sciences.

The CWSE (Prairies) Chair along with the other Chairs across Canada, presented a session at the Summit on the NSERC Model: Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering Program. Over 500 delegates attended the Gender Summit 2013.



Inside This Issue:

- 2 Workshop for Women
- 3 Reachable. Accessible. Possible./Hot Shot Prof./More Women Needed in Stem Fields: Interview with CJOB
- 4 CWSE Chair Receives Outreach Award / CCWESTT Conference

CWSE (Prairies) Hosts Leadership Workshop for Women in SETT

On December 11, 2013, CWSE (Prairies) hosted a Becoming Leaders: An Introduction to Leadership Skills and Strategies Workshop for women in science, engineering, technology, and trades. Over 30 women with a diverse cultural and professional background attended the workshop held at the University of Manitoba.

This professional development workshop was designed for early to mid-career female engineers, scientists and technologists in SETT sectors is the introductory module of the Centre’s comprehensive *Women in SETT Leadership Program*. (winsett.ca).

Why was this workshop needed? In our survey which included female graduate students and professors at the University of Manitoba, 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that women have fewer opportunities than men to become leaders (Table 1).

Table 1					
We are also curious about your opinion on the following. Please rate your agreement with the following items:	1 (Strongly disagree)	2 (Disagree)	3 (Neither agree nor disagree)	4 (Agree)	5 (Strongly agree)
In general, men make better leaders than women because of their biological tendency to be dominant.	55%	36%	5%	5%	0%
In general, women have fewer opportunities than men to become leaders.	0%	5%	18%	64%	14%

How effective was the workshop? The workshop included a pre- and post-test to better understand the potential impact of the workshop materials on the career path of the workshop participants. Data showed that participation in the workshop helped women to network and gain confidence in making career and leadership development choices. For example, because of the workshop, women have improved on range of options to ask for advice on how to develop their leadership potential (pre-survey: 3.1 ± 1.1; post-survey: 4.0 ± 0.8, improvement is significant at p<0.05; Table 2). Women also reported to have greater knowledge of how to develop a personal action plan to advance their career and leadership potential (pre-survey: 2.8 ± 1.1; post-survey: 4.0 ± 0.6, improvement is significant at p<0.05; Table 2).

Table 2	Difference between the pre- and post-survey test		
	Increased Score	Same Score	Decreased Score
Changes in paired pre and post-test scores. Increased score means more options or greater knowledge after participation in the workshop. Data is significant at p<0.05.			
I have a range of options to ask for advice on how to develop my leadership potential.	55%	45%	0%
I know how to develop a personal action plan to advance my career and leadership potential.	68%	27%	5%

How did the participants rate the workshop? All workshop participants agreed (59%) or strongly agreed (41%) that the workshop materials were valuable to them. Some comments were:

- “Thank you for today and in helping me to gain a better understanding of what qualities make a good leader. The exercises were helpful for getting me thinking about what skill I already have and about where I want to go with my life.”
- “Excellent across the board. Margaret-Ann & Edna were energetic & engaging. The two speakers both brought a personal perspective to challenges faced & life decisions - fantastic!”

CWSE (Prairies) would like to thank The Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology (WinSETT Centre) and facilitators Edna Dach and Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour for their commitment to delivering the workshop. Also, a special thank you to Dr. Karin Wittenberg and Dr. Christine Wu for sharing their life experiences with the participants.

This workshop wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the faculties of of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Engineering, Environment, Earth and Resources, and Science as well as the Office of the Vice-Provost.



Reachable. Accessible. Possible.

When Jen Storm first started on the job as the University of Manitoba's Aboriginal Student Recruitment Officer, she quickly realized that northern Manitoba communities were difficult to connect to.

Despite the challenges of not being guaranteed all of the students attendance when she did visit northern Manitoba students, she found a way.

She was the mastermind behind the current student recruitment video that was produced at the U of M.

Jen collaborated with NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (Prairies), Annemieke Farenhorst. Farenhorst agreed that the video was an interesting way to communicate with underrepresented potential university students. "We focused on showcasing the U of M where there is not a lot of Aboriginal students like Science and Engineering and to promote the fun stuff about it", says Storm.

When asked about how long it took to produce the video Jen Storm said, "It took about a year to produce the rough cut, and then another four months to edit. I really enjoyed planning it. I like creativity and doing something new. We wanted to recruit the proper students to appear in it, and also wanted to have the look and feel we wanted". "I really embraced the things I found challenging, like sharing my creativity with other people I'm working with, and learning how to rely on someone else's schedule with a team of four people. It was a great learning experience", she says.

The goal of the video was to be more accessible to students everywhere. Fly-in communities is very costly and the internet is a new way to communicate with young people. Not everyone can travel 10 – 12 hours to campus for a tour. The video aims to show prospective students what a day in the life of a university science student is really like.

The video is posted and also will be available in manageable segments on the popular youtube website for students to view. Click on the link below to access the video.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QssI3LRog4>



The Globe and Mail gathers information from professors, alumni and the universities themselves to describe some of the strengths and weaknesses of almost 60 universities in Canada.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) informed coverage of the type of undergraduate education. But, most importantly, they spoke to real-life students about the good and bad of their university experience.

On October 22, 2013 Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst was named one of The Globe and Mail's "Hot Shot Profs" recognizing her outstanding talents and contributions at the University of Manitoba.

More Women Needed in Stem Fields: Interview with CJOB



Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst and PhD student, Jenna Rapai, participated in a CJOB interview on December 18, 2013 with host Dahlia Kurtz.

They discussed the need to attract more women to STEM fields.

Congratulations to Jenna Rapai for stealing the show! Sounds like she may have missed her calling.

CWSE (Prairies) Chair Receives U of M Outreach Award

On November 13, 2013 Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst received a University of Manitoba Outreach Award for her outstanding efforts.

Engaging hundreds of participants through workshops as well as her ability to build and strengthen partnerships with other Universities and the Assembly of First Nations on the newly established H2O CREATE program.

Accepting on behalf of Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst was CWSE Program Coordinator, Jackie Onagi.



The CWSE - Prairies Team



Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst
The Chair
Annemieke.Farenhorst@umanitoba.ca



Jackie Onagi
WISE Kid-Netic Energy – NSERC-CWSE
Program Coordinator
Jacqueline.onagi@umanitoba.ca



Pepper-Mackena Pritty
Aboriginal Program Coordinator
umpritty@cc.umanitoba.ca



Ross McQueen
Information Technology
Ross.Mcqueen@umanitoba.ca



Jenna O. Rapai
Program Assistant
Jenna.Rapai@umanitoba.ca



Find Us on Facebook!

Visit us online at cwse-prairies.ca



CCWEST 2014
Open Opportunities:
Mentoring the Future
Regina, SK

Presented by **Mosaic**

May 22-24, 2014

Canadian Coalition of Women
in Engineering, Science, Trades & Technology



15th Biennial Conference
Regina, SK

Our Sponsors



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



Canadian Society of Soil Science
Société Canadienne de la science du sol



THANK YOU