

CWSE-Prairies Newsletter

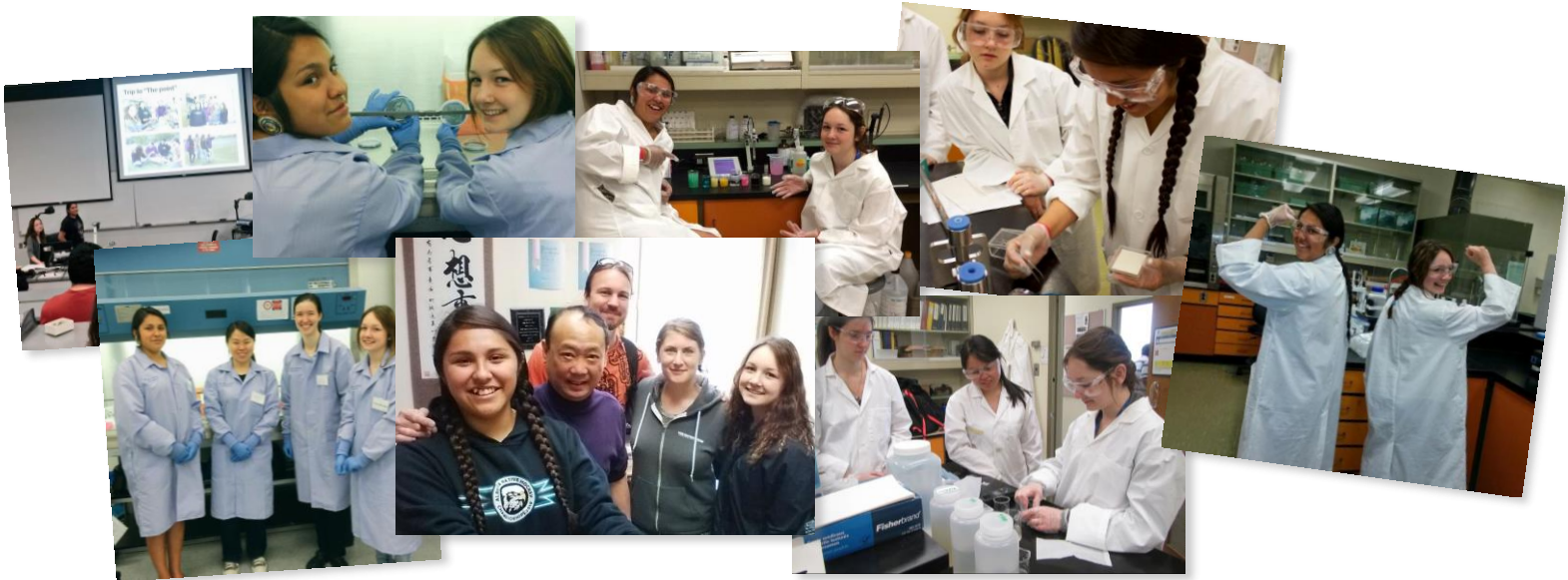
June 2015
Volume 4 Issue 1



*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.*

Record Number of Aboriginal Youth Participate in the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program at the University of Manitoba



Forty-six Grade 11 students from across the country were at the University of Manitoba from June 1-5, 2015 to learn about science and engineering. The Verna J. Kirkness Program offers scholarships to Aboriginal youth for a weeklong, hands-on experience in a University setting, such as *a Week in the Life of a Soil Scientist!* Students learn to conduct research and what it is like to be part of a research team. They also learn about academic and support programs available at a University. In total, 114 members of the University of Manitoba contributed to the program this year, including 33 professors and 56 graduate and undergraduate students!

The Verna J. Kirkness Program started at the University of Manitoba some years ago, and since 2015 is also offered at the University of Saskatchewan. The Prairies-CWSE program provided funding for five Grade 11 female students from Alberta and two Grade 11 female students from Manitoba to attend the program in 2015.

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CWSE–Prairies at the 2nd Biennial MCWESTT Conference

The 2nd biennial conference of the Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Technology and Trades (MCWESTT) was held on May 8, 2015. This one-day conference at the Fort Garry Hotel & Conference Centre in Winnipeg showcased engaging keynote speakers, empowering professional development workshops, and exciting networking opportunities for Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology (SETT) professionals.

The conference was attended by 300 women and men, including Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, Lena Yusim, and nine CREATE H2O students. Our Master of ceremonies for the day, Aisha Alfa, was back by popular demand. Betty-Ann Heggie opened the conference with her keynote presentation entitled “Changing the Game for Women in Leadership”, which was packed with insightful tips for women to climb the corporate ladder. Dr. Michelle Alfa, Principal Investigator at the St. Boniface Research Centre, and Jennifer Jones, Canadian Curling Olympic Gold Medalist were among two other distinguished keynote presenters.

Lena Yusim, the Prairies-CWSE coordinator, was the lead logistics coordinator, responsible for food and room arrangements. She was one of 42 volunteers that worked hard to deliver a successful conference.

Thanks to all of the organizers, we look forward to MCWESTT 2017 conference!



The Prairies-CWSE Welcomes the New B.C./Yukon and Quebec Chairholders to the NSERC CWSE Network!

In 2015 the Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering welcomed two new Chairholders to the program.



Dr. Eve Langelier, professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Université de Sherbrooke is the new NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (Quebec). Her objective is to change society's perception of the engineer and the scientist to show girls that women are successfully building careers and having fun in the fields of sciences and engineering.



Dr. Lesley Shannon is an Associate Professor in the School of Science and Engineering at Simon Fraser University and is the new NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (B.C./Yukon). Within her new role, a particular emphasis will be placed on increasing enrollment of women in the applied sciences (computing and engineering), fields that traditionally do not attract many women.

Workshop Luncheon for Women in Agriculture, Engineering, Environment, and Science: Develop Our Action Plan



On May 12th, 2015 the CWSE Prairies hosted a workshop luncheon for women professors, lecturers and students to brainstorm and eventually develop a reoccurring initiative for women in the Science Cluster (the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering, Environment, and Science). The event was also a chance to meet Dr. Karin Wittenberg, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Dr. Stefi Baum, Dean, Faculty of Science, and Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, the Prairies NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering. Each attendee received a complimentary book entitled "Becoming Leaders: A practical handbook for women in engineering, science and technology" by F. Mary Williams and Carolyn J. Emerson to be used as a reference tool throughout their academic career.

Each table had a diverse combination of women from the four faculties, making for interesting and valuable brainstorming. Towards the end of the event a representative from each group presented three concrete ideas for a sustainable, reoccurring Science Cluster Initiative that is of particular interest to them. During this time, Dr. Jonathan Beddoes, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, and Dr. Norman Halden, Dean, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources were in attendance to hear the ideas generated at the event first hand.



The next step will be to digitize all of the ideas into a document to be shared among the Science Cluster, Deans, and Dr. Farenhorst. Once the ideas are organized, the women in the Science Cluster will rank the feasible ideas from most to least valuable to them, and then one or more of these will be implemented.

Thank you to all of those who attended and helped to develop our action plan!





The 2nd Annual Make Your Move Event





The 2nd Annual Make Your Move Event was held on Saturday, March 7th, 2015 in the Engineering Atrium at the University of Manitoba. This event, in conjunction with International Women's Day, brought together Grade 8 girls from all over Winnipeg with engineering mentors to take part in hands on engineering challenges. For many of the young student participants, this was their first look at what engineering is all about! The day-long event was hosted by the electric Aisha Alfa, and the CWSE Prairies sponsored a team! Thanks to the WISE Kid-Netic Energy crew for making the event a success!


The CWSE - Prairies Team

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Registration for 2015-2016 WISE Kid-Netic Energy Girls Club Now Open!



For girls who love science, this club is the place to be! Girls will explore new areas of science, meet professionals, and go on field trips to see engineers and scientists applying their knowledge. There are other special events this program offers, including hosting the annual Girls Club science fair for all of the members to participate in! Girls Club is about having fun and fostering internal mentoring relationships.

Register your child online at www.wisekidneticenergy.ca/girls-club or call the Girls Club coordinator, Lena Yusim at 204-474-9556 for more information.

WHO
Grade 3 – 8 students

WHEN
Saturdays, 12:30 – 3:30 pm,
(18 meetings):
Sept. 26 - Nov. 28,
Jan 9 - Feb 6,
Feb 27 - Mar 12

WHERE
Faculty of Engineering
EITC,
University of Manitoba

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the WISE Kid-Netic Energy Program at the University of Manitoba!

Our Sponsors



Thank You