



# Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region

Winter 2019/Issue 21

The Women in Science and Engineering – Atlantic Region (WISEatlantic) program aims to shift gendered STEM stereotypes. We empower girls to consider Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-based careers by raising their awareness of the diversity of jobs within these fields, and enabling them to visualize themselves working in these fields. WISEatlantic also supports early career women in STEM through professional development and networking opportunities.

## What's Coming Up:

### ACT Conference - May 30-31, 2019 at UPEI



Join us May 30 & 31 at the School of Sustainable Design Engineering at the University of Prince Edward Island for the 3<sup>rd</sup> biennial **Atlantic ConnecTions Conference!**

The Atlantic ConnecTions Conference provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations from Atlantic Canada to work together to tackle the advancement and retention of women and gender minorities in the Science, Engineering, Technology and Trades (SETT) workforce within industry and academia. Women, gender minorities, and their allies from a cross-section of industry, education, government, and not-for-profit organizations are invited to participate in the conference. The theme of this year's conference is Sustaining Women in SETT.

Early-bird registration will open January 10, 2019. For more info on the ACT conference please visit [atlanticconnections.ca](http://atlanticconnections.ca)

### Girls Get WISE Science Retreats - St. FX March 23; MSVU April 13

We are excited to offer two **Girls Get WISE Science Retreat's** this Spring. One at St. FX on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and another at Mount Saint Vincent University on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our retreats, which feature two hands-on STEM activities and our popular role model session, are a great way for girls in grades 7-10 to explore STEM in a fun and engaging way and to discover STEM careers they may not have heard of before!

Both events run from 10-3pm and registration is required. Registration will be linked from our website, [WISEatlantic.ca/events](http://WISEatlantic.ca/events). Registration for the St. FX retreat will open January 22 and February 19 for the Mount retreat. Cost is \$10 per student and includes lunch. Spaces is limited, so register early!



### Skilled Futures for Women - April 26, 2019 at Acadia University

We will be organizing a role model session as part of our program partner Skills Canada Nova Scotia's **Skilled Futures for Women** event which will take place at Acadia University on April 26<sup>th</sup>. This event introduces female students to career opportunities available in skilled trades and technologies. For more information about the event please visit [www.skillsns.ca](http://www.skillsns.ca)



## What We've Been Up To:

### Science Literacy Week



We were excited to participate in Science Literacy Week (Sept. 16-22) again this year with our event **Out of This World! Explore Space with Local Scientists**.

As the theme of Science Literacy week this year was Space, we decided to host an event that showcased the space-related research happening right here in Atlantic Canada!

Our event featured Dr. Svetlana Barkanova, a Physicist at Memorial University Grenfell Campus, who spoke about her research into Dark Matter; Astrophysicist Dr. Catherine Lovekin who detailed her research which focuses on the structure and evolution of massive stars; and WISEatlantic Chair, Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal, who

discussed her research on the bone development of zebrafish in a microgravity environment. The event was hosted at Woodlawn Public Library to a very engaged and curious audience of over 50 people.

### WISEatlantic alumni set sights on Mount Science programs

For science students Emily Albert, Molly Murray and Madyn Bourque, Mount Saint Vincent University felt like home long before their post-secondary journeys began.

As alumnae of the Girls Get WISE programs hosted by WISEatlantic at the Mount, the trio were introduced to the world of STEM at young ages – during high school for Emily and middle school for Molly and Madyn. Reflecting on their time in the program, each notes how WISEatlantic helped lead them to STEM-based studies and career paths, and guided them to pursue their dreams at the Mount. To read the full article go to

[msvu.ca/news](https://msvu.ca/news)



From left: Emily, Molly & Madyn

### STEMaware



WISEatlantic hosted a STEMaware event October 10, 2018. The event strives to assist high school students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) make career decisions easier. At the event, the girls learned about the numerous opportunities that STEM fields can offer by meeting Mount Saint Vincent University Science graduates who work in various STEM fields. The girls had a chance to talk with role models with job titles ranging from 'Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist' to 'Registered Dietitian.'

The girls left at the end of the night with a greater understanding of careers they may have never thought of as an option. The event was an important way for the volunteer role models to meet with the girls to fill a gap they wish had been acknowledged when they were in high school.

This year marked the STEMaware event's second anniversary, and it's an event that NSERC WISEatlantic Chair, Tamara Franz-Odendaal, hopes will continue to grow and builds on from our already highly successful activities for girls in junior high. A huge thank-you goes out to all the role models who made the STEMaware event possible!

## Partnerships Program Funded

The WISEatlantic Partnerships Program is an opportunity for community organizations in Atlantic Canada to apply for **one-year sponsorships** to establish or expand programs that promote the outreach, recruitment, and retention for girls, young women, and industry professionals in STEM. This year’s successful applicants were:

- **Terranaut Club** – For their outreach project ‘Technology in Marine Conservation’ which will see 10 underrepresented High School girls from Halifax and Dartmouth attend a summer camp at Dalhousie and Acadia Universities to learn about Technology in Marine Conservation.
- **Dr. Svetlana Barkanova** at Memorial University Grenfell campus – For her outreach program ‘Open Space: Engaging Teens in Western Newfoundland in Physics and Astronomy’. Partnerships funding will allow female Physics professors at Grenfell to travel to rural schools in NL, including remote First Nations communities, to present and engage with students on current topics in Physics, Astronomy, and Cosmology.
- **The Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Association** (in partnership with Acadia University) – for their project ‘Analysis and Development of Diversity and Inclusion in the Atlantic Canada Water Industry’. Funding support will assist these partners to develop and conduct a research study focusing on diversity and inclusion issues faced by ACWWA’s membership.
- **Refresh Annapolis Valley**– For their ‘Build II: Computer Science Camp for Girls’ which is a week-long summer camp for 20 girls which allows them to explore the world of Computer Science. This camp aims to provide free registration for girls from underrepresented communities.

## First Lego League Teams

Each year, WISEatlantic funds several First Lego League Teams that are at least 50% female. This year we funded three teams, AXE Robotics, The Gophers, and the Techsperts.

The Techsperts, from Indian Harbour, NS attended their Regional Qualifier competition at the Truro NSCC campus, Nov. 17th. The youth captured 3rd place in the robotics game and won the first place trophy for Core Values - this trophy is for team play and cooperation.

WISEatlantic Chair, Dr. Franz-Odendaal, was invited by a previously funded team, Sisters of Science, to provide expert opinion on their project this year.

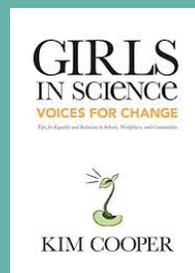


Sisters of Science



Techsperts

## WISEatlantic Reading Picks



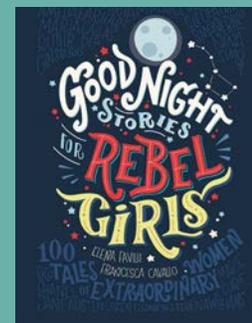
### Girls in Science by Kim Cooper

Voices for Change: Tips for Equality and Inclusion in Schools, Workplaces, and Communities

### Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls

by Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls reinvents fairy tales, inspiring girls with the stories of 100 heroic women from Elizabeth I to Serena Williams. Illustrated by 60 female artists from every corner of the globe, this is the most-funded original book in the history of crowd-funding.



# News from Across the Region

## Nova Scotia

Join **Engineers Nova Scotia** for their **Spotlight on Local Innovation** event on **Thursday, March 7th, 2019**. This event celebrates National Engineering Month by highlighting interesting projects and research led by engineers in Nova Scotia. This event will be held at the Halifax Waterfront Marriott. For more info visit [engineersnovascotia.ca/events/](http://engineersnovascotia.ca/events/)

Skills Canada Nova Scotia is hosting the **Skills Canada National Competition** in Halifax this year, **May 28 & 29** at the Exhibition Centre. The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) is the only national, multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices in the country. For more info please visit [skillscompetencescanada.com](http://skillscompetencescanada.com)

**Techsploration** hosted a full-house at their 2019 Annual Program Launch event on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Celebrating the kick-off of their 21st program year, Techsploration took the opportunity to unveil their new 'Power in Possibilities' poster campaign and their latest community report (both can be downloaded from [techsploration.ca](http://techsploration.ca)). Interested in getting involved with Techsploration as a role model? Contact Margaret at [margaret.davidson@techsploration.ca](mailto:margaret.davidson@techsploration.ca).

## Prince Edward Island

**STEAM PEI** will begin offering CSI - Investigating Science Behind the Scene after-school workshops to students in grades k-6 starting January 15th. To view a list of available school locations and to register, please visit [steampei.com/home/register/list-of-camps/](http://steampei.com/home/register/list-of-camps/). STEAM PEI also offers several March break activities. Be sure to check these out while on their site!

## Newfoundland

**WISE NL** is seeking mentors (graduate students, working professionals in both industry and academia) to take part in their Professional Mentorship Program. It is a great way to connect with a young woman pursuing STEM and make a positive impact. Application form can be found at [www.wisenl.ca](http://www.wisenl.ca)

The **WinSETT Centre** is hosting their Leadership Workshop Series in St. John's, NL starting with the Becoming Leaders workshop on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Info and registration can be found at [www.winsett.ca/programs/leadership-program](http://www.winsett.ca/programs/leadership-program)

## National

The **NSERC CWSE Network National Conference Grant** is accepting applications from **February 1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. The objective of the NSERC CWSE Network National Conference grant is to support the national conferences that contribute to the advancement of women in Science and Engineering. Applications may be submitted by individual students, professors, professionals outside of academia, or organizations. All applications received will be reviewed for consideration. Visit [wiseatlantic.ca/nserc-cwse-grant-policy/](http://wiseatlantic.ca/nserc-cwse-grant-policy/) for info on how to apply.

*If you have an event you would like featured in our next newsletter (April, 2019), email [WISEatlantic@msvu.ca](mailto:WISEatlantic@msvu.ca) with your submission and we'll try to include it.*

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**To our sponsors & partners, thank you for your on-going support!**



### Contact Us

Program Coordinator:  
Sally Marchand  
902-457-6294  
[WISEatlantic@msvu.ca](mailto:WISEatlantic@msvu.ca)

WISEatlantic Chair:  
Dr. Tamara Franz-Odenaal  
[Tamara.Franz-Odenaal@msvu.ca](mailto:Tamara.Franz-Odenaal@msvu.ca)

For resources, videos, and info about upcoming events visit: [www.WISEatlantic.ca](http://www.WISEatlantic.ca)

