

Girls in the Classroom – Unearthing Career Opportunities in Mining, North Rim / RESPEC

This educational outreach pilot project will engage with elementary and high school girls and young women to educate, debunk stereotypes and raise awareness around STEM-related career opportunities in the mining and minerals industry for women. With the support of innovative approaches and tools, the project will connect classrooms with the diverse female mining and minerals workforce as applied examples of the learning outcomes in the public school curriculum. The ultimate ambition is to feed this key underrepresented group of the mining sector talent pipeline through inspirational interactions.

The pilot project will engage with a diverse cross-section of classrooms in Saskatoon, including academically gifted, inner city, community and Indigenous schools across grades 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12. Just as the classrooms are diverse, the industry women that classrooms will be uniquely connected to will represent wide-ranging careers in the Saskatchewan mining sector, with a focus on in-demand careers. Women that embody the essence of being a role model will be selected by the project team to participate as mining industry representatives. She will discuss her education, experiences (both positive and hurdles she had to overcome), contributions and leadership in her company and community. The representative and her lesson plan materials and activities will link to outcomes and indicators of the school curriculum, as created with the teacher and project team. The project team will make teacher-representative pairs for the pilot project and, where they occur, identify cross-pair synergies (ex. the Grade 4 Rocks and Minerals industry rep may also speak to the Earth Science 30 curriculum). For the pilot, there will be 5 teacher-industry pairs minimum, each representing one of the Discovery, Plan, Mine and Reclaim mine cycle categories discussed in the classroom.

Girls who are interested in more intently exploring the various careers presented can enter an essay competition to win one of 3 sponsorship packages: the Saskatchewan Polytechnic GETT (Girls Exploring Trades and Technology) summer camp for 1 week in Saskatoon; Sci-Fi camp of their choosing for 1 week at the U of S; or a one-day job shadow opportunity with the industry representative and her company. One girl from each pilot project classroom will be selected. Other camps, conferences and learning opportunities related to the subject matter will be brought to the classroom's attention, for example the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Women in Trades & Technology (WITT) program hosts a free Skills Work conference for young women from grades 9 to 12.