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ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter

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Fostering a culture of curiosity in STEM: ITAC Xplore STEM Youth Conference

Today, fewer than half of high school students graduate with senior Science, Technology, Math and Engineering (STEM) courses despite the fact that 70 per cent of Canada's top jobs require this type of education. There is an even greater concern for the decline of women in these programs. The national enrollment of women in university STEM programs is only 20 per cent on average and just under 14 per cent of the country's 280,000 professional engineers are women.

The ITAC believes that early exposure in a supportive and encouraging environment is the key to shifting mindsets and helping students build confidence to embrace these fields and is honoured to work with a fantastic team of students at Glenforest Secondary School in Mississauga, Ontario to organize the *2018 Xplore STEM Youth Conference*.

The Conference is Canada's largest student organized conference promoting careers in STEM. The Conference brings together over 1,200 high school students from across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to explore STEM programs and careers to help clarify their plans for the future. It consists of speakers, hands-on activities and mentoring, focused around the STEM topics.

We encourage your organization to sponsor and actively participate in the fun STEM-based activities and events planned. The day will be packed full of wide eyes and stimulating moments. Together, we can inspire Canada's next generation of leaders.

For more information review the [Xplore STEM Youth Conference brochure](#) or contact Gina van Dalen at gvandalen@itac.ca