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ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter

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ITAC members help drive success of third annual Xplore STEM Youth Conference

Thanks in part to the overwhelming generosity of our members, the third annual *2018 Xplore STEM Youth Conference*, was a HUGE success.

The Conference, which was created to promote careers in STEM, brought together over 1,600 high school students and educators from across the Greater Toronto Area, British Columbia, Quebec and Prince Edward Island in addition to students from two Ontario Indigenous communities to explore STEM programs and careers through 12 guest speakers, hands-on activities, 35 information booths and over 70 one-one speed mentoring opportunities. The event took place on November 13, 2018 at the Toronto Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton, ON.

ITAC joined Glenforest Secondary School as a partner for the event – with the overriding goal of helping to encourage more young people to consider STEM programs and careers, and as a supplement of ITAC award-winning CareerMash high school outreach program.

“This Conference is a great way – through industry and academic leaders providing sound advice, and through workshops and activities – to expose students to the limitless opportunities the STEM fields have to offer. There’s also an ongoing concern about the declining number of young women in these programs; and this is a huge challenge – especially as Canada is becoming increasingly dependent on its digital economy,” explained Gina van Dalen, executive director, ITAC Talent. “



Agreeing, Diana Wang-Martin, the lead teacher on the Xplore STEM Youth Conference at Glenforest Secondary School added, “encouraging students to pursue a post-secondary degree in STEM is important – not just when they’re close to graduation and picking their college or university programs – but right from grade 9. There are more than 2 million students in Ontario alone. Despite the fact 70 per cent of Canada’s jobs require students with a STEM education, fewer than half of students are graduating with STEM courses. Many don’t realize that they can combine their passions – including athletics, fashion design or gaming – with STEM programs and have a well-paid, fulfilling career.”



Participants included: Kim Cooper, Vice President of Partnerships, First Robotics Canada; Dr. Sara Dickson, Associate Chair, Department of Civil Engineering, McMaster University; Hillary Marshall, Vice President, Stakeholder Relations and Communications, GTAA; MP Peter Fonseca; MP Marc Garneau, Minister of Transportation; Peter Joshua, Director, Peel District School Board; Maria Attarian, Customer Solutions Engineer, Google; Krista Shibata, Leader of Women in Technology Initiative, IBM; Kristine Dawson, President, Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning...and more!