



## **Saskatchewan Science Centre Brings Together Students and Female STEM Professionals on International Day of Women and Girls in Science**

**February 11, 2019 – (Regina, SK)** – February 11 is the *International Day of Women and Girls in Science*. To raise awareness of the importance of gender equity in science and other STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers, the Saskatchewan Science Centre and The Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo hosted an event to bring together female STEM professionals and high school students.

More than 90 students from Miller Comprehensive High School attended the event which was divided into two parts. The first portion of the event was a panel discussion where the panelists shared their challenges and experiences as women working in STEM fields. The women on the panel represented fields such as quantum computing, engineering, and biology. They included Nairong Hou and Maria Julia Maristany from the Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo; Sarah Romuld from Wascana Centre; and Patti Kindred and Tara Zrymiak from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS).

The panelists discussed the education they needed to achieve their goals and how to be successful in a STEM career.

After a brief break, hands-on science experiences and a networking opportunity took place.

Science Centre event organizer Julie Fisowich spoke about the importance of such an event. “Women and girls have traditionally been underrepresented in STEM careers. In recent years the numbers have improved, but there is still a gap and inequality in the gender balance in STEM fields and enrollment in STEM programs of study. It is important for youth to see women in STEM careers. They act as role models and set a path for the next generation of women making scientific discoveries, creating new technology and making a better future for all.”

Sandy Baumgartner, CEO of the Saskatchewan Science Centre said that “organizing and hosting events such as this are core to our mission at the Science Centre. By giving people of all ages from across the province opportunities to learn about science and STEM careers, we are helping schools and parents lay the foundation for a future Saskatchewan that is at the forefront of technological and scientific innovation.”

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**About The Saskatchewan Science Centre**

The Saskatchewan Science Centre is a non-profit, non-governmental educational facility with the mission of igniting scientific curiosity and innovation in Saskatchewan communities through interactive, dynamic and engaging opportunities. Our vision of the future, in fulfilling that mission, is inspired minds through science and innovation. The Science Centre is one of Saskatchewan's largest family tourist attractions with more than 6 million visitors since its opening in 1989.

[www.sasksciencecentre.com](http://www.sasksciencecentre.com)

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**About The International Day of Women and Girls in Science**

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was established to promote science learning, research and careers available to women and girls. One of the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to empower women and girls in economic development and to bridge the gender inequality in STEM disciplines. The International Day for Women and Girls in Science was established to promote the access of women and girls in their participation of STEM education.

[www.un.org/en/events/women-and-girls-in-science-day/](http://www.un.org/en/events/women-and-girls-in-science-day/)

**About Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC)**

The Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC) is a scientific research institute at the University of Waterloo harnessing the quantum laws of nature to develop powerful new technologies that will transform information technology and drive the 21st century economy. Its mission is to develop and advance quantum information science and technology at the highest international level through the collaboration of computer scientists, engineers, mathematicians and physical scientists.

[www.uwaterloo.ca/institute-for-quantum-computing/about](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/institute-for-quantum-computing/about)

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