

FLEMING COLLEGE

Building Bridges to Careers in the Trades

With a goal to double female enrolment in its trades and technology programs by 2026, Fleming College is taking bold steps forward to create more opportunities for women in the skilled trades.

The foundation for this is the College's Building Bridges program, a multi-faceted and holistic approach to recruiting women to the trades sector.

Making up half the population but only five percent of the skill trades workforce, females are highly underrepresented in industry. Through Building Bridges, Fleming aims to help close the gap on the shortage of skilled tradespeople as well as open up pathways to careers for more women.

In partnership, and with the generous support of community and industry, Building Bridges has three main pillars to empower and encourage female students:

- Group and 1:1 mentorship from women working in a variety of trades positions across sectors. This includes Fleming alumni, faculty and administrators.
- Networking and engagement opportunities to help students build connections among industry leaders and young professionals.
- Financial scholarships to reduce barriers to post-secondary education.

"Since I came to Fleming, I felt the need to let other women know that trades are a fantastic way to earn a living. There are limitless possibilities for each and every one. I am very passionate about supporting women in the trades and look forward to sharing my journey with students," says mentor Meghan Emberson, a 2015 graduate of the Mechanical Techniques – Plumbing program and now a Project Manager with Vandermeulen Plumbing.

Each year, the program supports 30 highly motivated students selected through a competitive process. The students are eligible for up to \$3,500 in scholarship funds and are expected to meet with their mentors and attend events related to the Building Bridges program.

Students can apply directly through the Fleming website.



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