

SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC

Sask Polytech's exploratory programs pave the path for Women in Trades and Technology

Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Women in Trades and Technology (WITT) program has been a driving force in promoting diversity and supporting women in trades and technology for the past three decades. While the program has evolved over its long history, its initial goal remains the same: to encourage and assist women interested in trades and technology careers.

"The WITT program works tirelessly to recruit and support new female students in less-traditional careers," says Allison Zerr, WITT program head, Red Seal and Blue Seal welder, and Red Seal metal fabricator. "We provide a range of resources and opportunities, including award and scholarship information, program-specific tutors, mentorship programs, drop-in consultations, networking events and campus tours."

WITT offers education options for those looking to enter the trades or technology industry, enabling girls and women to explore and experience various trades. Through WITT exploratory programming, short courses and workshops are offered on weekends or evenings, catering to working women and high school students. These courses provide exposure to a specific trade or technology, allowing participants to acquire fundamental skills in areas such as carpentry, welding, electrical work, refrigeration, sheet metal fabrication, industrial mechanics and more.

"The purpose of the exploratory courses is to give girls and women an awareness of different career options in a safe environment with female instructors and mentors," says Zerr. "This will help build students' confidence in themselves and hopefully encourage them to sign up for additional learning through our certificate programs or apprenticeship options."

From framing and erecting walls to installing toilets and wiring electrical outlets, these hands-on exploratory experiences equip young women with tangible skills that can propel them towards a rewarding career.



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