

Humber College

Humber shows girls the skilled trades are for them

Students from the York District School Board visited the Centre for Skilled Trades and Technology

Girls from the York District School Board were given a glimpse of possible future careers in the skilled trades following a visit to Humber College earlier this summer.

More than 75 Grade 7 and 8 students from the York board visited Humber's Centre for Skilled Trades and Technology to tour the campus, check out the labs – which include plumbing, carpentry, electrical, millwright, welding and more – and they got to build something.

The hope, said Michael Auchincloss, associate dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology, is that the trip will get some of the girls thinking seriously about a career in the trades. Women are increasingly entering into them, and these types of events are a way to introduce girls to this possible career, he said.

Many of the girls who attended didn't know what they wanted to do for a living in the future and were intrigued by the chance to explore the trades. One student said she wasn't sure about what her future career will be, but likes using her hands, so she was happy to know there were opportunities to do so during the trip.

The students, with a little help from Humber instructors, built birdhouses to learn more about carpentry and its tools. They also constructed hoola hoops out of piping as they learned about using the proper connectors to attach the piping together. They also were treated to a welding display.

Lynn vanLieshout is manager, Community Projects, Community Outreach and Workforce Development at Humber. She wished she had been encouraged to enter the trades as a young woman. She worked in the construction industry on the administration side but always wanted to be on a job site working with tools.

"Don't ever think the trades are something you can't do," vanLieshout told the girls.

For more information, visit Humber's Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships website.



HUMBER

Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology

GROWING DEMAND FOR SKILLED TRADESPEOPLE

Humber college takes students beyond the traditional classroom and provides hands-on practice in simulated worksites. On-site facilities include plumbing, carpentry, electrical, millwright, welding, industrial woodworking, construction, and renovation labs.

► Find out more at humber.ca.

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