Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group

The mission of IEEE WIE is to inspire, engage, encourage, and empower women in engineering, and work toward a vibrant community of IEEE women and men to innovate the world of tomorrow. WWEST Partners funding has supported the Vancouver Section’s STAR program (Students, Teachers and Research), a pre-university outreach initiative, and networking events for their members.

Events included:

TRY Engineering University Field Trip and Lab Session
In April 2011, grade 10 and 11 students from University Hill Secondary School visited the electrical and computer engineering (ECE) program at UBC. The students toured the robotics lab, attended an ECE undergraduate student teams project showcase, carried out a hands-on electronics lab project, and had the chance to talk with undergraduate students.

Networking Night with Amazon
In October 2013, WIE members learnt about Amazon’s services and products, hiring process, employment criteria, and working environment. The participants created connections with the Amazon employees, recruiters, and other WIE members.

“Meet an Engineer” Classroom Visits
Four classroom visits were held in conjunction with the Planning 10 class at University Hill Secondary School. For each visit, a woman engineering graduate student or engineer in training led a classroom activity to safely transport potato chips using only the supplies provided. Student surveys undertaken before and after the event showed an increase in interest in engineering, and increased knowledge about high school requirements for engineering.