

UBC's Okanagan Campus Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Workshops and Mentoring Program

These projects support the success of young women transitioning from their undergraduate education to a career in science or/and engineering, or further education.

At the WiSE workshops, women from a variety of science and engineering professions address career topics, share their career paths, and answer questions from the undergraduate and graduate student audience. The workshops include dinner, a panel discussion, as well as time for informal networking for all the participants. Feedback from students show that many of them were unaware of issues such as salary differential, the need for negotiation, workplace demands unique to women, and the likelihood of career path changes.

The UBCO WiSE Mentoring Program was launched in September 2011. This program provides longer-term connections between students and professional women, with approximately six events from September to April.

In the 2013/2014 academic year there are a total of 40 student mentees (35 science, 5 engineering) with 21 mentors (13 science, 8 engineering). Overall the Mentoring Program made a positive impression on both mentors and mentees, with both groups happy with their match-ups. The areas with most positive feedback from the mentees were:

- I gained information about the profession
- I received guidance
- I received advice in career planning
- I received constructive feedback

WWEST Partners funding is also supporting a prospective longitudinal research study to examine how formal mentoring programs contribute to young women's academic success and their transition into professional careers or graduate study.

