

Women in Engineering (Vancouver Region) - WIE (VR)

The vision of WIE (VR) is to continuously promote skill enhancement workshops and strong connections to a diverse group of women in engineering across workplaces, engineering fields, and universities, in the Vancouver Region. WWEST Partners funding has helped to support three workshops each year for 2011-2013.

In November 2011 the presentation was “The 3 massive mistakes even smart business professionals make that keep them overstressed, unhappy and unhealthy”. A woman business professional’s life can be extremely stressful as, in addition to doing a job, there are many other demands on time, energy and resources. The presenter provided strategies for when you feel pulled in multiple directions trying to meet all the demands. Participants were asked what they particularly enjoyed and the feedback included “Very informal event but at the same time very professional”, and “The candidness of the speaker and willingness to share her personal experience.”

Judi Hess led the November 2012 workshop “The Gender Gap in Engineering: How far have we come? Where do we go from here?” Judi showed that girls outperform boys in math and physics, but very few work in these fields. She talked about some of the underlying reasons for this attrition, as well as what can be done to improve this situation. Throughout the presentation, Judi also told stories of her personal struggles and the road blocks she overcame to get to where she is now, the CEO of Copperleaf Technologies.

In January 2013 the interactive workshop was “Entrepreneurship and starting your own consulting business”. Donna Denny presented her journey to business ownership and gave practical tips on how to start a consulting business, and how to tackle the internal demons. Participant feedback included “The presenter was very interesting, a great role model”, and “Good job! Please keep it up!”

