



ALBERTA WOMEN'S  
SCIENCE NETWORK

---

IMPACT REPORT

2025

# Table of Contents

S  
T  
E  
M  
C  
O  
N  
C  
E  
P  
T

01.

Introduction

02.

Message From The  
President

03.

What We Do

04.

Funding & Member  
Support

05.

WinSTEM Week

06.

Awards

07.

Acknowledgements

### **Alberta Women’s Science Network (AWSN)**

AWSN’s primary focus is to connect, unite, support, and promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives across Alberta. As a province-wide network, AWSN fosters collaboration among member organizations and volunteers, creating opportunities to share knowledge, learn from collective experiences, and address shared challenges.

AWSN supports its members through funding, in-kind resources, and volunteer connections, while also leading its own initiatives that promote equity, visibility, and leadership in STEM. Through both member support and organization-led programming, AWSN works to strengthen communities and advance long-term participation in STEM across the province.

# INTEGRATION

## **A Brief History**

Founded in 1993, AWSN has grown from a grassroots initiative into a province-wide network advancing equity in STEM. By connecting students, professionals, educators, and advocates, AWSN fosters collaboration, leadership, and lasting systemic change across Alberta.

## **What We Stand For**

- **Recruitment**

Encouraging entry into STEM through early exposure, outreach, and accessible pathways.

- **Recognition**

Highlighting achievements, leadership, and contributions across STEM to ensure work is seen, valued, and celebrated at every career stage.

- **Retention**

Fostering inclusive communities and mentorship to support long-term success in STEM.

## **Why It Matters**

Despite progress, women and gender-diverse people still face systemic barriers in STEM. AWSN works to transform both who participates in STEM and how STEM spaces function. Through programs, partnerships, and advocacy, AWSN builds inclusive communities, supports STEM pathways, and advances equitable practices because equity strengthens innovation and the future of science.

# WHAT WE DO

AWSN advances gender equity in STEM through funding, recognition, and province-wide programming, strengthening communities today while building a more inclusive future.

## **Funding & Member Support**

We fund and support organizations delivering community-led STEM equity initiatives across Alberta.

## **WinSTEM Week**

We lead an annual, province-wide celebration amplifying women and gender-diverse voices in STEM.

## **Awards**

We recognize excellence, mentorship and leadership through the Athena and Minerva Awards.

---

Together, these efforts reflect AWSN's ongoing commitment to fostering equity, visibility, and long-term participation in STEM because inclusive science drives stronger communities and a better future for all.

# FUNDING & MEMBER SUPPORT

AWSN raises funds through AGLC casino initiatives and gratefully acknowledges the volunteers whose time and commitment make this possible.

The funds raised allow AWSN to directly support member organizations and community groups across Alberta. We provide financial assistance to grassroots initiatives working with students and communities at all levels, including groups in remote locations and high school robotics programs.

**In 2025, AWSN donated over \$35,000 to support member initiatives.** Through this funding, AWSN helps remove financial barriers and enables opportunities that foster learning, leadership, and long-term success in STEM.



# FUNDING & MEMBER SUPPORT

In 2025, **AWSN provided funding to 16 organizations across Alberta**, supporting grassroots, student-led, and community-based STEM initiatives. Funded organizations included:

- Nelson Mandela High School Robotics Team 21595
- BrainSTEM Alliance Ltd.
- Neuroconnections Project
- ULethbridge iGEM
- Edmonton Rocketry Club
- University of Lethbridge Operation Minerva
- Praxis (Medicine Hat)
- Mujeres Omega Foundation
- Realize Your Potential Youth Society of Alberta
- UAlberta iGEM
- UAlberta Women in Science and Engineering
- UAlberta WiSER
- TELUS World of Science - Edmonton
- UCalgary iGEM
- UCalgary BIOMOD
- UCalgary WiSE



# WINSTEM WEEK

## **About WinSTEM Week**

Launched in 2016 to align with Ada Lovelace Day, WinSTEM Week celebrates the achievements of women in STEM. It has grown into a flagship AWSN initiative that fosters connection, visibility, and collaboration among professionals, emerging leaders, and youth.

## **Our Focus**

WinSTEM Week is guided by three key priorities:

### *Representation & Visibility*

- Amplifying the stories and contributions of women in STEM to inspire future generations.

### *Community Engagement*

- Creating accessible, hands-on STEM experiences that build curiosity and confidence.

### *Collaboration & Support*

- Bringing communities together to address systemic barriers through dialogue and partnership.

## **Impact & Importance**

Despite progress, women and gender-diverse people remain underrepresented in many STEM fields. WinSTEM Week works to make STEM more visible, inclusive, and approachable—encouraging young people to envision themselves as leaders while supporting those already in STEM through recognition and connection.

WinSTEM Week is officially recognized by the Government of Alberta and is celebrated annually during the third week of October in perpetuity.

# MESSAGE FROM TANYA FIR

## Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women

---

This year, WinSTEM Week received strong public visibility through social media amplification. Posts highlighting the initiative were shared on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and other platforms by Tanya Fir, Alberta's Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women, as well as the Government of Alberta's official accounts. Their engagement helped spotlight the importance of gender equity in STEM and extended the reach of WinSTEM Week to audiences across the province.

- [Government of Alberta News Release](#)
- [Minister Tanya Fir's Post on X](#)
- [Government of Alberta's Post on X](#)
- [Alberta Culture's Post on X](#)



“I am honoured to recognize Women in STEM Week, an annual celebration of the remarkable achievements of women in STEM.”

# WINSTEM WEEK

---

## STEM Stars of Tomorrow

AWSN partnered with the Calgary Public Library to bring hands-on STEM activities to the community, engaging over **50 children and families**. This event was made possible through the support of our volunteers, the Calgary Public Library, and a refreshment donation from the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society.

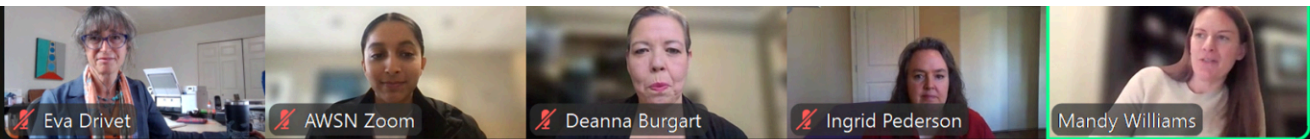


# WINSTEM WEEK

---

## Breaking Barriers, Building Futures Webinar

AWSN hosted a webinar bringing together accomplished women in STEM to share insights on leadership, resilience, and navigating challenging environments. The panel featured **Ingrid Pederson**, **Eva Drivet**, and **Deanna Burgart**, and was moderated by AWSN Board Member **Mandy Williams**. Panelists discussed building confidence, finding balance in demanding roles, and creating space for women's voices, offering perspectives that resonated strongly with attendees.



### Today's Panelists

- **Deanna Burgart, P.Eng., C.E.T.**  
Associate Dean, Indigenous Inclusivity & Reconciliation and Associate Professor, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, University of Calgary  
Co-founder, IndigeSTEAM
- **Eva Drivet, M.Sc., P.Geol.**  
Founder, Drivet Geological Consulting Ltd.  
Carbonate specialist with 30+ years' experience in Western Canada and South America
- **Ingrid Pederson**  
Storage Senior Specialist, Facilities Integrity, Enbridge  
24 years' global experience in oil & gas and active STEM volunteer



# WINSTEM WEEK

---

## Silent Auction

Our WinSTEM Week Silent Auction gave supporters the chance to bid on unique experiences and items generously donated by community partners. With contributions from organizations like **Wilder Institute, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and LOUD Art Society**, and many more, we showcased the power of community in supporting women in STEM.

This year's auction featured 11 different items and raised over **\$2000**, with 100% of proceeds going directly toward AWSN programs and initiatives.



**LOUD**  
ART SOCIETY

### ✨Mystery Art Experience ✨

Think you have tried it all? Think again. LOUD Art Society invites you to dive into the unknown with two tickets to a mystery art workshop. One evening you might be painting with vibrant watercolors, another you could be crafting clay creations or exploring a new mixed-media technique.

Current bid is \$90.00 Bid Now!

[More Details...](#)



**LOUD**  
ART SOCIETY

### 6-Week Therapeutic Acrylic Painting Program

Enjoy six weeks of guided acrylic painting sessions designed to nurture both creativity and well-being. With LOUD Art Society, you'll learn techniques to bring your ideas to life on canvas while also engaging in a

Current bid is \$220.00 Bid Now!

[More Details...](#)



### Dino Day Out at the Royal Tyrrell Museum

Round up the family (2 adults and up to 6 children aged 7-17 yrs old!) and head to Drumheller for a prehistoric adventure. With this one-day pass, you'll dig into the world of dinosaurs, marvel at giant fossils, and explore hands-on exhibits at the iconic Royal Tyrrell Museum. Perfect for kids, teens

Current bid is \$200.00 Bid Now!

[More Details...](#)

# WINSTEM WEEK

---

## The WinSTEM Week Bracelet and Keychain Event

Hosted by the graduate student club ACID:BASE (Association of Chemists for Inclusion and Diversity: Building Advocacy, Solidarity and Education), created a fun and inclusive space for the ULethbridge community. Over 70 participants—including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, professors, and staff—joined in to make bracelets and keychains while connecting. Many expressed interest in learning more about AWSN and ACID:BASE. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with comments such as **“I wish there were more events like this”** and **“this was a fantastic break from my work.”**



# WINSTEM WEEK

---

## Praxis Family Science Olympics

The 33rd Annual Family Science Olympics, held at Medicine Hat College, offered a free, hands-on STEM experience for families. With support from Education students, the event engaged over **200 participants** in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

More information about the event can be found [here](#).



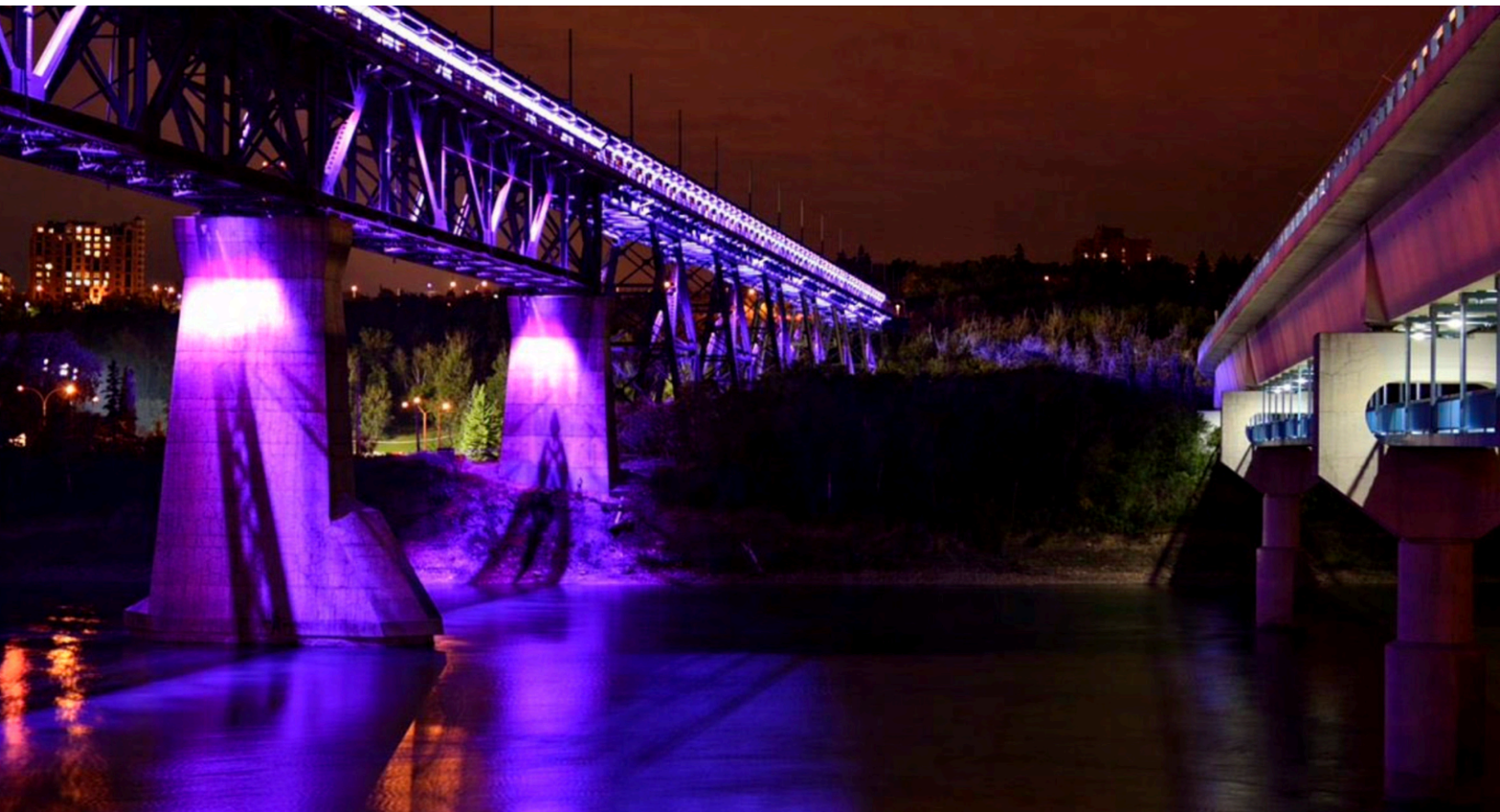
# WINSTEM WEEK

---

Iconic landmarks across the province were illuminated to celebrate WinSTEM Week in vibrant colors to shine a spotlight on women and gender-diverse people in STEM. These lightings symbolized unity, visibility, and the shared commitment to building a more inclusive STEM community across Alberta.

## **2025 Lighting Schedule:**

- October 14 – High Level Bridge, Edmonton
- October 15 – Peace Bridge, Calgary
- October 16 – Reconciliation Bridge, Calgary
- October 16 – TELUS Spark, Calgary
- October 18 – Calgary Tower, Calgary



# ATHENA AND MINERVA AWARDS

---

One of the highlights of WinSTEM Week was announcing the Athena and Minerva Award recipients, celebrating exceptional women in STEM. The Athena Award honoured established leaders, while the Minerva Award recognized rising stars making early, impactful contributions.

In 2025, we celebrated:

Minerva Mentoring Award – **Dr. Laura Curiel**, P.Eng. for advancing biomedical engineering education and championing women in STEM.

Athena Award – **Annette Milbradt**, P.Geoph., FGC for inspiring thousands through geoscience outreach across Alberta.

Both were honoured at the AWSN Awards Recognition Brunch at Deane House in Inglewood.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere thanks to the volunteers who dedicated their time to AWSN's casino fundraising initiatives, whose efforts make much of our work possible. We are deeply grateful to all event volunteers and program members for their commitment, leadership, and the impact they create within their communities.

We also thank the individuals and organizations across Alberta who support women in STEM—through partnership, participation, and generous donations. Your continued support strengthens our network, amplifies opportunity, and helps advance equity in STEM across the province.

---

***We thank you for your continued support in advancing equity in STEM.***

---

## CONTACT

E-mail: [info@awsn.org](mailto:info@awsn.org)

[LinkedIn](#)

Instagram: [@awsnsocial](#)

Website: <https://www.awsn.org>