



ALBERTA WOMEN'S  
SCIENCE NETWORK

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WINSTEM WEEK  
REPORT

2025

**WinSTEM Week:  
Celebrating Women in STEM Across Alberta**

WinSTEM Week is an annual celebration organized by Alberta Women's Science Network (AWSN) to recognize, amplify, and support the contributions of women and gender-diverse individuals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This province-wide initiative brings together communities, organizations, and leaders to inspire the next generation and create a more inclusive STEM ecosystem in Alberta.

## A Brief History

Launched in 2016, WinSTEM Week was established to coincide with Ada Lovelace Day, a global celebration of the achievements of women in STEM.

The week has become a cornerstone event for AWSN, fostering connection, visibility, and collaboration between established professionals, emerging leaders, and youth.

## What We Stand For

WinSTEM Week is built on three core pillars:

- **Representation and Visibility**

Highlighting the contributions and stories of women in STEM fields to inspire others.

- **Community Engagement**

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

- **Collaboration and Support**

Encouraging dialogue and partnerships to address systemic barriers.

## Why It Matters

Despite progress, women and gender-diverse people remain underrepresented in many STEM fields.

WinSTEM Week aims to change that narrative by:

- Making STEM more visible, approachable, and inclusive
- Encouraging young girls to see themselves as scientists, engineers, innovators, and leaders
- Supporting those already in STEM careers through recognition, visibility, and networking opportunities

WinSTEM Week has been officially declared by the Government of Alberta to be recognized annually during the third week of October in perpetuity.

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# MESSAGE FROM TANYA FIR

## Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women

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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.”

# STEM STARS OF TOMORROW

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AWSN partnered with the Calgary Public Library to bring the spirit of WinSTEM Week directly to the community. Through hands-on experiments and interactive activities, we engaged over 50 children and their families, sparking curiosity and excitement for STEM in a fun and approachable way. The kids especially loved making lava lamps and experimenting with “screaming balloons,” which quickly became crowd favourites.

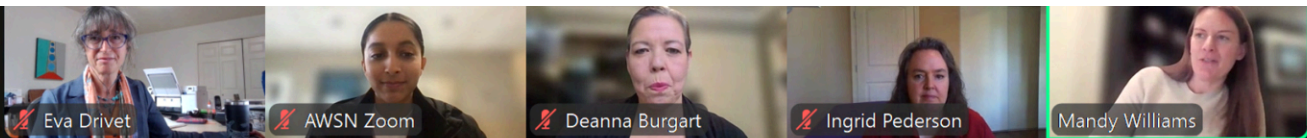
This event was made possible thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the generous refreshment donation from Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, and the strong partnership and support of the Calgary Public Library.



# BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING FUTURES WEBINAR

The webinar organized by AWSN brought together a panel of accomplished women who shared powerful stories of leadership, resilience, and personal growth. The event featured Ingrid Pederson (Storage Senior Specialist, Enbridge), Eva Drivet (President, Drivet Geological Consulting), and Deanna Burgart (P.Eng, C.E.T), and was moderated by Mandy Williams, AWSN Board Member and President of Azure Energy Inc.

Panelists engaged in an inspiring discussion about building confidence in challenging roles, finding balance in demanding environments, and creating space for women's voices. Their energy, insight, and authenticity resonated deeply 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



# ATHENA AND MINERVA AWARDS

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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.



# SILENT AUCTION

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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...](#)

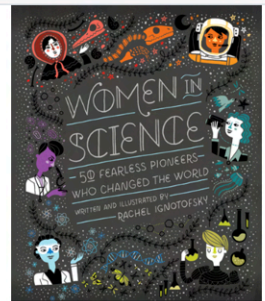


## A Night at the



Restoring balance between wildlife and human life, together.

## Wild Adventure at the



## Inspiring Women in

# WINSTEM WEEK BRACELET AND KEYCHAIN MAKING

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 University of Lethbridge campus community. Over 70 participants—including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, professors, and staff—joined in to make personalized bracelets and keychains while connecting over coffee and tea. 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.”



# PRAXIS FAMILY SCIENCE OLYMPICS

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The 33rd Annual Family Science Olympics was a vibrant, hands-on celebration of STEM learning for families. Held at Medicine Hat College, the free event featured a variety of interactive science challenges and activities designed to spark curiosity and creativity.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of the college's Education students, families enjoyed an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. This year, over 200 participants—along with many dedicated volunteers—joined in making the event a resounding success.

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



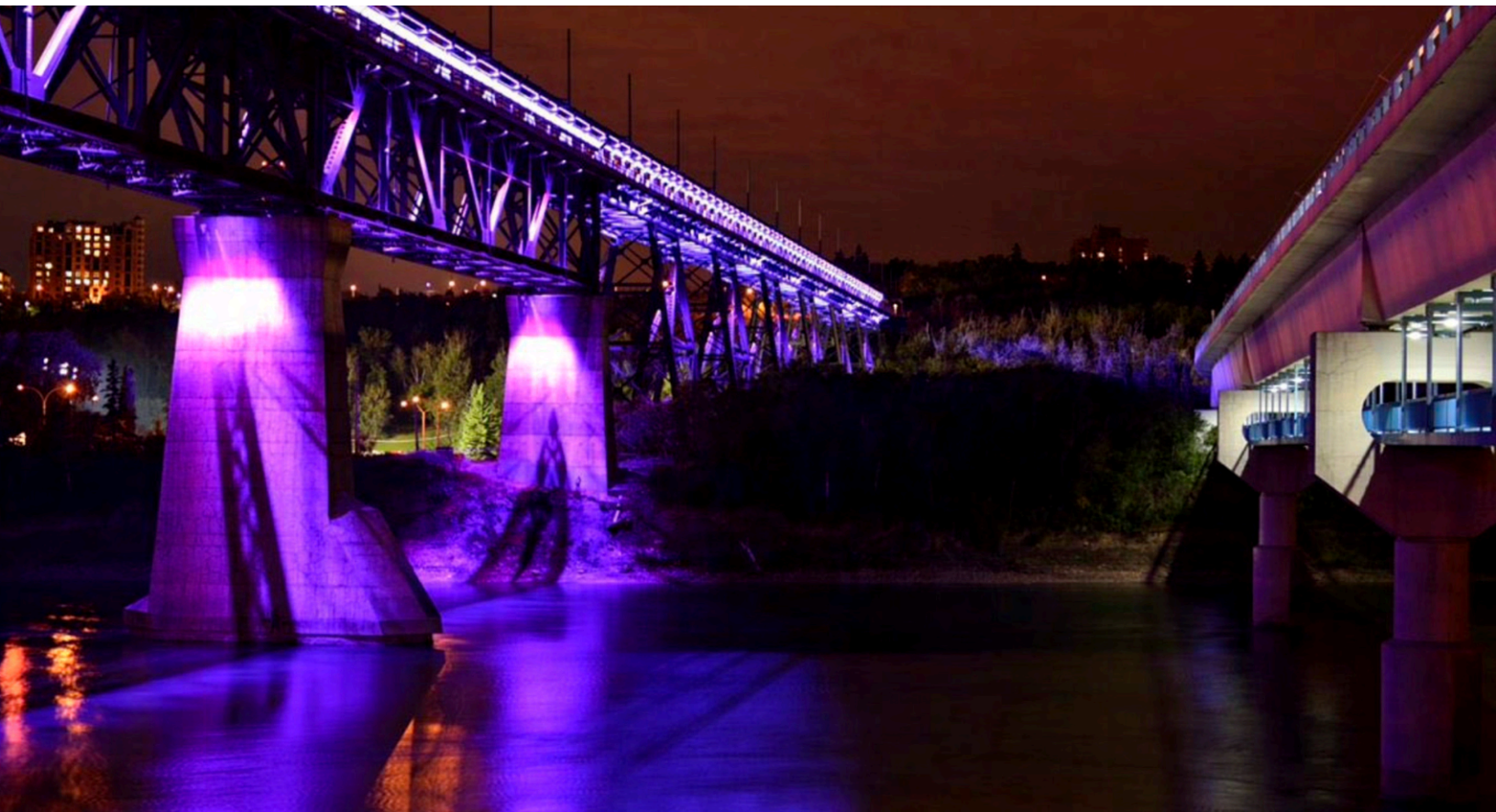
# LIGHTING UP ALBERTA FOR WINSTEM WEEK

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To celebrate WinSTEM Week, iconic landmarks across the province were illuminated 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



Looking ahead, WinSTEM Week will continue to grow as a province-wide celebration of women and gender-diverse individuals in STEM. Our goals include expanding partnerships, increasing hands-on outreach, and strengthening visibility through media and public engagement. By building on this year's successes, WinSTEM Week will continue to inspire future STEM leaders and foster a more inclusive and equitable future.

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