

# FACULTY OF SCIENCE PROVOST'S REPORT TO SENATE

June 2022

## **Eliminating Achievement Gaps**

### **Williams Lake Day of Science and Engineering**

Funded by an extension grant from PromScience at NSERC, the local school district partnered with TRU to bring students to campus. This was a great opportunity to engage high school students in fun and interesting learning activities at TRU WL campus. It was aimed at students who tend not to choose careers in these fields, especially those from rural communities, have indigenous ancestry and/or are women.

Faculty members from Computing Science (Haythem El Miligi) and Engineering (Geoff Fink) departments were joined by the Dean at TRU WL campus and offered training sessions on App development, Robotics and a general conversation about opportunities in science. In the first session, students learned the basic concepts of Mobile app development and developed a simple game by the end of the session.

In the second session, students learned how to assemble and program a wheeled robot and used a graphical programming language to implement their own algorithms on an Arduino-based robot. During the lunch break, students had the chance to chat with the Dean of Science, Dr. Greg Anderson, and learned more about the different programs offered by the Faculty of Science and the wide range of scholarships that TRU offers to students.

### **Langley School Visit with Future Students Office**

In collaboration with Future Students Office, the engineering department hosted 30 grade 11 and 12 students from Langley secondary school on May 10th. The grade 12 students interacted in a Design a Video Game Console activity using FPGA in the engineering hardware lab and the grade 11 students were shown how to Build Your Own Computer in the engineering software lab.

Both activities were well received by the students and allowed them the opportunity to explore software engineering.

### **SENG Connect**

Engineering contacted all SD 73 principals regarding new outreach proposal "SENG Connect" for Fall 2022. This program strives to increase high school students' understanding of software engineering-related activities and to help them choose their discipline in the software engineering profession. To assist high school students in this academic decision-making, we have designed the SENGConnect program.

The program targets students in grades 11 and 12, giving them the opportunity to try out various software engineering experiments for technological engagement. Each experiment is two or three hours long with hands-on experience demonstrated by the engineering department members.

## **Key Deliverables, Activities and Achievements**

Greg Anderson, Lauchlan Fraser, and Barbara Tolevski attended the Natural Resources Forum put on by the Kamloops and Region Chamber of Commerce with potential donors, with the intent to socialize the Faculty of Science into the forest, mining and oil and gas industries.

Greg Anderson helped Athletics interview potential candidates for their inaugural Strength and Conditioning coach.

Barbara Tolevski, [Director of Development-Science](#), attended the Donor Wall Unveiling Event at Williams Lake TRU Campus with the intent to thank the supporters and engage them in faculty initiatives in sustainable ranching and mining. The event was attended by 50 donors.