



For Immediate Release

University of Ottawa student Ayla Ahmad selected as the 2013 Vale Master's in Engineering Scholarship Winner

(Renfrew, Ontario): A new ambassador and role model for women in engineering has joined the illustrious list of Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation scholarship recipients. The Foundation is proud to announce that Ayla Ahmad, a master's in engineering student at the University of Ottawa has been named the 2013 Vale Master's in Engineering Scholarship winner.

This prestigious \$10,000 scholarship is awarded annually to the most promising woman interested in the mining or metallurgical field who is a full-time graduate engineering student at the master's level in Canada. This year's winner is a dedicated volunteer and mentor.

Ayla Ahmad is a chemical engineering student at the university where her research focuses on new and environment-friendly techniques of wastewater treatment utilizing bismuth-based photocatalysts.

Among her many accomplishments, she has volunteered as a mentor for Women in Science and Engineering at the University of Ottawa where she was elected vice-president, has served as a leader to first year students easing their transition from high school to university and donates her time at the national science outreach program "Let's Talk Science" through interactive presentations to youth.

"As a young girl, I was fascinated by physics, mechanics, construction and innovation. Participating in science fairs and poster competitions made me realize that engineering was my passion and I decided to pursue it as my career choice. This decision was initially met with criticism from those around me due to concerns about engineering being a 'non-traditional' field for girls," says Ms. Ahmad. "As a graduate student, it is important to me that I serve as a role model for young girls and recently delivered a presentation at Elmwood School (for girls)."

"For over 20 years we have been a proud supporter of the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation and women in engineering, and have invested our time and resources into ensuring

engineering is a gender-equal profession,” says Wayne Scott, General Manager Base Metals Human Resources Solution Center for Vale. “We are extremely proud to have Ayla represent both Vale and the profession of mining engineering as our 2013 Master’s in Engineering Scholarship recipient. Vale is a world leader in the mining industry and we remain dedicated to building a strong future and investing in the communities we serve. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ayla!”

Along with the financial support, Vale may offer summer job opportunities to its scholarship winners.

Since 1990, the Foundation has been promoting engineering as a career choice for young Canadian women through its extensive scholarship program, a website that attracts thousands of new visitors a month, social media programming, and scholarship winner presentations to high school students.

Ms. Ahmad will receive her scholarship certificate at the CEMF *Networking and Award Event* held in conjunction with the Engineers Canada AGM in Yellowknife, NWT this June.

“Ayla is a remarkable leader who has taken her experiences and knowledge to support and inspire other Canadian women,” says Huntley O’Connor, CEMF president. “Congratulations Ayla and I look forward to meeting you in Yellowknife where we will celebrate your outstanding achievements!”

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For more information, please contact Meghan Howard, Executive Director, Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation, 1-866-883-2363, info@cemf.ca, www.cemf.ca