



For Immediate Release

Two exemplary Engineering students awarded 2016 Vale Undergraduate Engineering Awards

(Renfrew, Ontario): Volunteers, leaders in their communities and ambassadors for the engineering profession – these are the qualities exemplified by **engineering students Stephanie Saliba and Sabrina Hiefer**. The two outstanding women, selected from applicants across Canada, have been chosen as recipients of the 2016 Vale Undergraduate Engineering Awards.

The prestigious \$10,000 scholarships are awarded annually to the most promising women in an accredited undergraduate engineering program in Canada who demonstrate interest in the mining and metallurgical fields. Competition was fierce this year, with many outstanding applicants. However, even among the very best, Stephanie and Sabrina stood out.

These women are actively involved in their communities, volunteer many hours to helping others and are strong role models for the mining engineering profession.

Ms. Saliba is a native of Lebanon who made the decision to study engineering here in Canada. She is currently a third year undergraduate student specializing in Mining engineering at McGill University in Montreal. Stephanie is active within her university community acting as the Vice-President of Culture for the Lebanese Students' Association of McGill, and Vice-President of the Co-op Mining Engineering Undergraduate Society. Recently, Stephanie decided to become part of an event that is held each year in Montreal that invites young girls aged 12-14 to discover various careers related to sciences and engineering so that she can continue her mission to break down gender barriers in the industry.

“Engineers have the potential to solve some of the world’s toughest challenges and by doing so, impact people’s lives in a very positive way. That is what really attracted me to engineering,” says Ms. Saliba.

Ms. Hiefer is a fourth year Environmental Engineering Student at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. She previously received a Bachelor of Applied Science from Acadia University. Sabrina is a dedicated student motivated to making a difference for the better. While she was at Acadia, Sabrina was involved in many environmentally-focused groups. By her second year, she was taking on leadership roles and had co-founded the Atlantic Youth Environmental Council. Sabrina eventually became chair of this group and was able to spread the network throughout Canada as well as the New England States. The network has become an invaluable tool to students. Recently, Sabrina organized a December 6th Memorial for the victims of the [École Polytechnique](#) shooting in 1989. Sabrina is passionate about supporting equality and women’s rights within the field of engineering.

“Environment and women’s rights are what currently fuel my fire. I want to make a difference, and I feel engineering allows me to have a bigger voice to create that change,” says Ms. Hiefer.

Since 1990, the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation (CEMF) has promoted 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 via award-winning presentations to high school students. Vale is a founding partner with the Foundation and it is through Vale’s support these two important scholarships are available.

“On behalf of the leadership team at Vale, I extend sincere congratulations to Ms. Saliba and Ms. Hiefer, says Tracy Aitchison, Director of Human Resources in the Base Metals line of business at the global mining company. “Their academic accomplishments, their commitments to breaking down barriers and promoting equality, and their passion for engineering serve as a strong foundation for future success. Vale is committed to helping build a better future. Investing in this scholarship is one of the many ways we promote higher education, diversity in the workplace and opportunities for women in the mining industry.”

Along with its financial support, Vale may also offer a summer job opportunity to its award winners.

Thanks to Vale’s support, Stephanie and Sabrina will receive their award certificates at the CEMF *Award Event* in Ottawa, Ontario this September.