



For Immediate Release

IBM PARTNERS WITH CEMF ON NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

(August 23, 2006) OTTAWA, Ontario – IBM Canada is stepping forward to encourage more young Canadian women to choose engineering as a career by offering two new university undergraduate scholarships.

The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation (CEMF) is excited to announce its partnership with IBM for the two scholarships for women in electrical or computer engineering. The scholarships will be offered for the first time this fall.

IBM is funding the new \$2,500 IBM Canada Undergraduate Engineering Scholarships; both will be awarded annually beginning in October 2006. While recognizing high grades are important, this scholarship is awarded based on leadership, extracurricular activities and the applicant's dedication to encouraging more women to enter electrical or computer engineering rather than academic performance.

Criteria and guidelines are now posted at www.cemf.ca or by calling 1-866-883-2363 for those wanting to apply for the scholarships.

Deadline for applications is October 20, 2006. All applications must be postmarked no later than October 20 to be accepted.

The partnership comes at an essential time in Canada, with the number of women enrolling in accredited engineering programs on the decline. Total full-time female undergraduate enrolment has dropped from 20.6 per cent in 2001 to 18.5 percent in 2004. This decline is even more dramatic when compared with the fact that women account for close to 60 per cent of the overall undergraduate student body at Canadian universities.

"At IBM, we recognize the importance of reaching out to young Canadian women to encourage them to consider engineering as an exciting and rewarding career option," says Dave Scott, campus programs manager for IBM Canada. "Working with CEMF to provide these two new undergraduate scholarships is an important addition to our efforts to increase the number of female engineers in the country."

CEMF now offers a total of 10 scholarships at the graduate and undergraduate levels for women in engineering. Criteria and guidelines and specific deadlines to apply for each are all now posted on the website at www.cemf.ca.

CEMF was founded in 1990 to develop scholarship and award programs encouraging women to choose a career in engineering and to honour of the memory of the 14 women at École Polytechnique whose contributions to Canada ended on December 6, 1989.

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