



Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation (CEMF) Announces 2009 Scholarship Winners

For immediate release

(Renfrew, Ontario): The criteria for the CEMF engineering scholarships, at first glance, may not seem overly stringent. Canadian women applying must be leaders, volunteers, involved in numerous community activities and willing to go out of their way to inspire others. And yet, the combination of these characteristics results in remarkable women who shine among their peers.

Alix Bertrand from Laurentian University, Suzan Matti from the University of Windsor and Kyla Fisher from McMaster University, have been named the three winners of the inaugural \$10,000 2009 Vale Inco Undergraduate scholarship by CEMF.

Alix Bertrand from Sudbury, Ontario is a third-year mining engineering student at Laurentian University. She describes herself as “focused and determined and uses her leadership abilities to thrive in a non-traditional program for women.” She currently represents engineering students across Ontario as president of the Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario which is a communication link between all 15 engineering societies.

Suzan Matti from Windsor, Ontario is currently pursuing a mechanical engineering degree with a minor in business administration from the University of Windsor. She is an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and was one of the founding members for the IEEE-Women in Engineering affinity group which promotes and supports women in engineering.

Kyla Fisher from Outer Cove, Newfoundland is a second-year McMaster University student studying civil engineering in the water and environment stream. She is an active member of Engineers Without Borders and the acting coordinator of her school outreach program. She has been described as an “exceptional leader” who is “highly organized, responsible and dedicated to her studies.”

“Alix, Suzan and Kyla are all excellent examples of how much students can achieve in a short timeframe. They are committed to their chosen profession of engineering and are dedicated volunteers. We are thrilled to have them representing the Foundation and the profession of engineering as a whole,” says Suzelle Barrington, ing., CEMF president.

Along with the \$10,000 scholarship, each student will receive a Vale Inco expense-paid trip to the CEMF Annual Awards Luncheon in Montreal during the Annual General Meeting of Engineers Canada being held on May 22, 2009.

“Vale Inco is proud that these three exceptional women are the first recipients of our undergraduate scholarship commitment,” says Katie Fines, Campus Recruitment Manager of Vale Inco. “The scholarships are awarded based on extracurricular activities and dedication to encouraging women to enter engineering. Each scholarship winner shows extraordinary talent and leadership and serves as a role model for younger women.”

Vale Inco is one of the world’s leading nickel mining companies and a leading producer of copper, cobalt, and precious metals. The company employs 12,000 employees worldwide. The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation was founded in 1990 and honours the memory of the 14 women from École Polytechnique in Montreal who lost their lives on December 6, 1989.

CEMF is committed to creating a world where engineering meets the needs and challenges of Canadians by utilizing the skills and talents of men and women alike, promoting engineering as a career choice with the generous support of Canadian corporations and many individual engineers from coast to coast.

The Foundation provides a total of 13 scholarships at the undergraduate, Masters and PhD levels of study and promotes engineering as a career choice for women through their website, press releases, Annual Awards Luncheon and scholarship winner presentations to high school students.

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Backgrounder attached.

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