GIRLS AND STEAM

Presented by STEMCELL Technologies

MENTOR CAFÉ

JUNE 16, 2026 5:30PM – 7:30PM

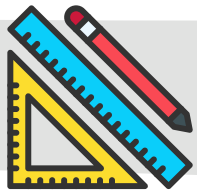
Use this document to get to know our mentors before you meet them at the Mentor Café. Read through the bios and our sample questions to help you formulate your own questions for the mentors.

June 16, 2026

Don’t know what to ask? Don’t worry! Here are some questions to get you started

1. What inspired you to choose your career in STEAM?
2. What did you want to be when you were our age?
3. What’s the coolest or most exciting part of your job?
4. What subjects did you enjoy most in school?
5. What skills do you use the most in your job today?
6. What does a typical day look like for you?
7. Do you work with a team or mostly on your own?
8. What’s the biggest challenge you’ve faced in your career?
9. How do you stay confident in a field where there might be more men than women?
10. What do you wish someone had told you when you were in middle school?
11. What’s something you’re excited about in the future of your field?
12. If we wanted to follow in your footsteps, what’s one thing we could start doing right now?

Engineering



Ainslie Tuer

she/her

I am a civil engineering student, currently on a co-op at a construction company. Right now I am working on a wastewater treatment plant where I perform quality checks and help communicate with the structural engineers when instructions or drawings are unclear or need updates. Previously I worked on the New St. Paul's Hospital where I had a similar job, but the project was at a different stage of construction. I am also interested in the design of wastewater treatment plants and other infrastructure.

Engineering Student

PCL

BEng Civil Engineering

Becca Stubbs

she/her

I have had a varied career over the past nine years. After graduating from university with a degree in Civil Engineering, I began my career as a Structural Engineer, conducting seismic assessments for foreign office buildings around the world.

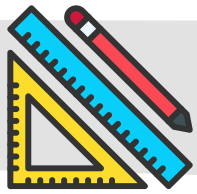
Over time, I realized I was more passionate about working with people than computer models, which led me to transition into an advisory role within the infrastructure sector.

Project Manager

Mott MacDonald

Civil Engineering

Engineering



Catherine Munro she/her

I recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with a degree in Civil Engineering. During my studies, I learned about how roads, buildings, rivers, and water systems are designed and built—things that we interact with every day.

Today, I work as a Water Resources Engineer, where I study rivers, coastlines, and rainwater systems to help protect streets and communities from flooding. Through my work, I help develop solutions that make our communities more resilient and better prepared for future environmental challenges.

Water Resources Engineer in Training

Associated Engineering Binnie

Civil Engineering - Water Resources

Elizabeth Wong she/her

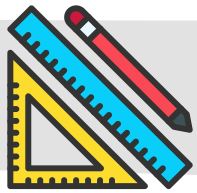
I am a Rail Systems Engineer-in-Training. Whenever a railway track crosses a road, there are special safety systems in place to protect drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. My job is to help design the electrical circuits that control the flashing lights, gates, and bells that warn people when a train is coming. I work with drawings and computer tools to make sure these systems are reliable and work properly in all conditions. By doing this, I help keep people safe and ensure trains can move smoothly across the rail network.

Rail Systems Engineer in Training

Hatch

BASc Systems Design Engineering

Engineering



Jing Min

she/her

Throughout my career, I have worked on a wide range of projects, including transportation impact analyses, parking studies, site circulation assessments, functional design, signage and pavement marking plans, temporary construction management plans, and traffic data collection and analysis.

My work focuses on developing practical transportation solutions that improve mobility, safety, and efficiency for communities while supporting the successful delivery of infrastructure projects.

Transportation Engineer

Bunt & Associates Engineering Ltd

Transportation Engineering

Maira Parra

she/her

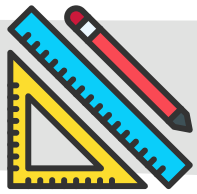
I work on optimizing building energy use. I work with building developers, contractors, and architects to design buildings to use less gas and less electricity, with the goal of reducing the carbon emissions associated with new buildings. This involves selecting the right building materials, heating/cooling systems, lighting, water systems, and controls systems. I love getting to look at buildings from a sustainability angle every day.

Building Performance Consultant

Edge Sustainability Consultants

Transportation Engineering

Engineering



May Stewart

she/her

I am the Technical Lead and Architect for silicon design development of PCIe IP. I help design and guide the development of the high-speed technology that allows different parts of a computer to talk to each other super quickly and smoothly. My work is like solving big, complex puzzles with a team, where we turn ideas into real computer chips that power the technology people use every day—from gaming and AI to the devices you use at home and school. Have you ever wondered how your computer can do so many things at once, so quickly?

PMTS Silicon Designer

AMD

BASc specializing in electrical engineering

Sally Raad

she/her

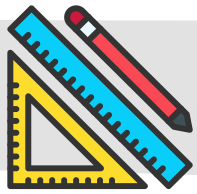
Mechanical and Piping Engineer-in-Training

Hatch

As an engineer in the mining and mineral processing field, we design the process of turning raw ore (rock) into a desired product of metals and/or minerals.

BASc Mechanical Engineering, BSc Computer Technology

Engineering



Shauna Bryce

she/her

I lead large teams whoe design buildings. In doing so, I plan and lead the process for the work of Architects, Engineers, and designers as we develop the design and put together drawings and reports that contractors use to build buildings.

Associate Principal - Senior Project Manager

Perkins&Will

MArch (Master of Architecture)

Tricia Willis

she/her

I work in construction, helping build things like highways, bridges, and other important infrastructure that people use every day. My job is to make sure projects are built safely and to a high standard, and I get to work closely with engineers, contractors, and lots of different teams on site.

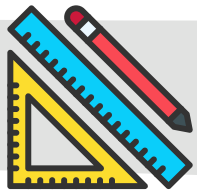
I didn't start out on construction sites—I actually began working in an office doing data entry before moving into a safety role. My path into STEM wasn't a straight line, but I love what I do because it's challenging and hands-on!

Project Safety / Project Coordinator

McElhanney

Safety Professional, Project Manager, Construction Technician

Engineering



Daniela Uhlenbruck she/her

I'm a water resources engineer, which means I help design and take care of systems that manage water in our communities. My work focuses on things like rivers, rainfall, flooding, and making sure people have access to clean water while protecting the environment. I use science, math, and computer tools to understand how water moves, and then help plan projects—like drainage systems, flood protection, and safe storage facilities—that keep people and ecosystems safe.

Water Resources Engineer

Klohn Crippen Berger

B.A.Sc Environmental Engineering

Sophia Gupta she/her

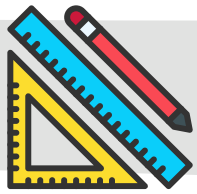
I work in wastewater treatment, which means that I design the systems that clean up the water that goes down your drain before it gets discharged to the ocean. When wastewater leaves your toilet, shower, or sink, it contains solids and bacteria that are harmful to aquatic life, so it is important to remove them before discharge. There are many types of equipment that can be used to treat wastewater, such as "settling tanks", "filters", and "bioreactors", and I get to choose which equipment to use and design how it all fits together in a wastewater treatment plant.

Process Engineer

AECOM

Bachelor of Engineering, Chemical Engineering

Engineering



Michelle Wang

she/her

I used to work as a data engineer for a bank, where I built systems that collected and processed information. My job involved creating secure data pipelines that allowed computers and AI systems to analyze large amounts of data, identify patterns, and help customers and businesses make better decisions. Inspired by the growing role of AI and its increasing energy needs, I am now studying energy systems to better understand how we can provide the clean, reliable energy needed to power future technologies.

Student

UBC

Pursuing MA in Clean Energy Engineering

Jeanie Chan

she/her

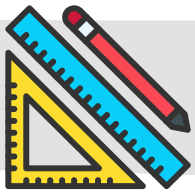
I am an engineer and educator who is passionate about designing more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable buildings. As the Associate Dean of Mechanical Engineering at BCIT, I work with faculty and students to create hands-on learning experiences that connect engineering and technology education to real-world careers, drawing on my previous industry experience in energy modelling and building performance.

Associate Dean

BCIT

BASc and MASc in Mechanical Engineering with Mechatronics specialization

Engineering



Elsa Snyder

sher/her

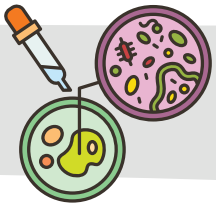
Architect

Perkins&Will

MSc Architecture

The core of my work as an architect is community-centered work that focuses on inclusion, health, and wellness - like community centers, libraries, and spaces for physical activity. In my job I work with other engineers and designers to design and construct buildings that better our communities. Architecture is a fun mix of art and science, parts of the job can be very detailed and technical, but there are also many opportunities to be creative, explore, and design.

Biotechnology



Ankana Mukherjee she/her

I work in the Quality Control Department at STEMCELL Technologies. My job is to help make sure the products our company creates are safe, reliable, and work properly before they are sent to scientists around the world. You can think of my team as the “final checkpoint” before the products reach customers. We perform different kinds of laboratory tests, including experiments with cells, to make sure everything meets high quality standards. These products help scientists study diseases and develop new medical discoveries.

Senior Specialist in Quality Control

STEMCELL Technologies

BSc Hons Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, AA Psychology

Hayoung Yoo she/her

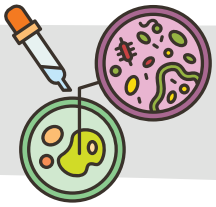
I collaborate with other biotechnology companies to launch cool new products for researchers to experiment with.

Partner Relationships Manager

STEMCELL Technologies

BSc - Honours Chemistry and Biochemistry (UBC)
MSc - Molecular Genetics (University of Toronto)
MBA - SFU

Biotechnology



Lasya Vankayala

she/her

I am a scientist working at Amgen BC, where I work with special antibodies that can bind multiple targets at once.

Industry scientist

Amgen BC

PhD in protein engineering

Shraddha Srinath

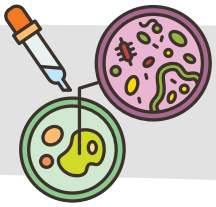
she/her

I am Scientist who works with proteins, tiny building blocks in our bodies. My job is to separate and clean them so they can be used in medicines and research. I run experiments to find faster and better ways to do this. My work helps scientists and doctors understand diseases and improve health.

Sr. Process Development Associate

STEMCELL Technologies

Biotechnology



Pinn Yee Scott

she/her

As a chemistry co-op student, I am in charge of designing and making lipids (one of the components of an LNP) in order to advance LNP technology. I also analyze data about my compounds and present my data to the rest of my team. Additionally, as a co-op student, I get to learn not only about chemistry but also about how a company like Acuitas operates and how each team works together towards a common goal.

Chemistry Co-op Student

Acuitas Therapeutics

BSc, Chemistry

Environmental

Jayme Graham

she/her

I am an environmental consultant, and I help businesses and government agencies understand environmental regulations, manage risks, and develop sustainable solutions that reduce impacts on the environment. My work includes conducting site assessments, ensuring projects comply with environmental laws, and advising clients on environmental policies and best practices. I also spend time in the field carrying out wildlife surveys, wildlife salvages, water quality testing, and other environmental sampling activities to help protect ecosystems and support responsible development.

Environmental Consultant/Biologist

Redcedar Environmental Consulting

Technical diploma in Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Management
Bachelor of Science in Ecological Restoration

Jessica LeNoble

she/her

I work on a wide variety of projects all aimed at keeping our aquatic environments clean and free from pollution. Examples include conducting data analysis to help set government guidelines, engaging with First Nations communities to help decide how we will invest in treatment systems or other infrastructure, and participating in field work to measure our waterways like creeks, lakes, and the ocean.

Environmental engineer

Kerr Wood Leidal

MASc Pollution Control and Waste Management

Environmental

Xian Kerfoot

she/her

The Starfish Canada aims to provide leadership and communication opportunities that center youth voices, and uplift all environmental changemakers. I plan and facilitate the environmental educational workshops that teach marine conservation and environmental stewardship. These programs are hands-on learning opportunities for individuals of any age to inspire and build a sense of belonging in the natural world.

Sea Smart Programs Lead

The Starfish Canada

BSc Biology

Fernanda Osorio

she/her

I work on environmental projects that help protect rivers, ecosystems, and communities. My job is a mix of science, fieldwork, problem-solving, and working with people. Some days I am out in nature helping with environmental monitoring or restoration projects, and other days I am organizing programs, researching water issues, or collaborating with different communities and experts. I am especially passionate about making a positive impact through environmental work and helping young people connect with the outdoors and sustainability.

Operations Coordinator

Rivershed Society of BC

MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management
BSc in Global Resource Systems focus on environmental science and Econonmics

Environmental

Fiona Danks

she/her

I have a background in geography, ecology, and conservation, using tools such as GIS mapping and satellite data to study environmental challenges ranging from climate change in the Arctic to biodiversity conservation projects around the world. Throughout my career, I have worked in a variety of roles, from managing a research station in the Arctic to leading global conservation science projects as Head of Science at an international NGO, collaborating on initiatives in countries including Fiji, Ghana, South Africa, and Vietnam.

Consultant

Self-employed

BA Geography & Env Biology
MS Arctic Biology
PhD Arctic Studies (Ecology)
MPhil Conservation Leadership

Mackenzie Common

she/her

I work in environmental consulting and travel to sites all over BC. I help check soil, water, and air to see if a site is contaminated and figure out the next steps. I love problem-solving to discover a site's history, understand the geology, and help turn unused land into places where people can live, work, and play

Environmental Engineer (in training)

Thurber Engineering

BASc. in Environmental Engineering

Environmental

Dyrian Olson

she/her

I am a Registered Professional Forester who spent 13 years working in the forestry industry before transitioning into teaching in BCIT's Forest and Natural Areas Management (FNAM) program. I combine classroom learning with hands-on field experiences, helping students develop critical thinking skills, tackle real-world forestry challenges, and build confidence working outdoors. I am passionate about creating a safe and supportive learning environment where students feel comfortable asking questions, trusting their abilities, and developing a deeper connection to the natural world.

Registered Professional Forester

BCIT

BSc Natural Resource Science

Technology / Design

Kim Flieger

she/her

I make video games for a living. Most of my day is spent writing code to make the game run and fun to play. I currently lead a team of other programmers, to help them problem solve and build the game together. I've worked on titles like Magic the Gathering Arena and Fallout 76. I've been in the video game industry for 8 years now

Senior Software Engineer

Skybox Labs

Video Game Software Engineering

Janel Jolly

she/her

I am a proud nerd who started my career in the video game industry as a game tester and have since worked on more than 25 titles! My work involves collaborating with teams around the world across art, audio, engineering, animation, and many other disciplines to help create high-quality gaming experiences. Quality Assurance is about much more than finding bugs—it requires understanding how ideas become games, how feedback improves design, and how new technologies are changing the way games are developed, creating opportunities for people with all kinds of skills to build exciting careers in the industry.

Director of Quality Assurance

Electronic Arts (NHL Team)

3D Gaming Animation & Modeling, Game Design, Production, Quality Assurance.

Medicine

Anjali Siega

she/her

I am studying one of the most aggressive types of breast cancer. I work in a lab where I run experiments to understand how a protein called DJ-1 affects cancer cells and why it can make them more dangerous. I take classes to learn more about how cancer behaves in the body. While the work can be challenging, I love learning new things and meeting inspiring scientists and doctors who motivate me every day.

Graduate Student

Simon Fraser University

In process of completing MSc in Health Sciences

Vienna Lam

she/her

I study how bodies decompose in water, and develop technologies to find them faster. My work involves intertidal/underwater archaeology, forensic anthropology (bones, human decomposition), geography/GIS, and testing fun ways of applying new technology for forensic/medicolegal investigations.

Co-Director (CRIPT), Researcher (SFU)

Simon Fraser University

PhD Criminology (Forensic Anthropology)

Medicine

Teesha Baker

she/her

I recently transitioned into freelancing after spending 10+ years in the lab. My freelancing has a wide range of jobs that I might work on: consulting research projects that are similar to those that I worked on while I was in the lab, data analysis on projects that need a statistician/bioinformatician, and grant writing, to name a few. I have the freedom to work anytime and anywhere! I get to work at my own pace and take time for my personal life when opportunities come up.

Freelancer

Self-employed

PhD Biochemistry

Cyn Meng

she/her

Hello! I'm Cyn, a Masters student in Criminology. I have a background in criminology, psychology, and forensic science (how science may be used in civil and criminal investigations). While most of my research and work lies in criminal law and the legal system, I have spent many years with the Entomology Lab at the Centre for Forensic Research, which includes working with insects in the field of criminal investigation.

Master's Student and Research Assistant

Simon Fraser University

MA Criminology