

W06: The Inventive Women Website Project

Time 1.5 hours

Leader: Annie Wood
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WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The Inventive Women Website Project pursues these objectives:

- * Promote and advance the achievements of Canadian women in the areas of invention, science and technology;
- * Provide resources for women who want to start new businesses through the creation of a new product or through a new invention or through innovative services, processes and products;
- * Introduce role models for young women;
- * Inspire innovation for the future;
- * Create a unique educational resource that will introduce Ontario's inventing women as role models for girls and young women, encouraging them to pursue study and work in areas of math, science and technology;
- * Contribute to Canada's emerging knowledge-based economy.

The workshop at the 8th CCWEST Conference has the following objectives:

1. To provide an orientation to the Inventive Women Website Project.
2. To show how the website and its content can inspire girls and young women to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
3. To encourage feedback from those present on the website content, activities and resource links.

THE WORKSHOP WILL

- outline the evolution of the project concept, starting with the experiences of a high school teacher seeking examples of women role models in science and technology, through to the experience of securing funds for the development of a highly innovative educational resource and tool for supporting emerging women inventors;
- show, on an overhead screen, the website as developed to date, describing a typical journey through the schoolhouse and library of the site's cyber-community;
- take the audience through a number of the interactive games and other activities, showing how students and researchers can learn about women inventors, their inventions and their contributions to economic development across the country;
- outline, through specific applications, how the website can be used as part of the curriculum for science and technology classes in Grades 5 and 9;
- describe how a potential inventor might find support to bring their innovations to the marketplace;
- ask workshop participants to reflect on their own experiences and inspiration to pursue STEM careers, with a request for feedback on how the website can be enhanced as a mentoring tool for girls and young women thinking of pursuing a STEM career.

The workshop will provide participants with a concrete and practical experience with the application of new technologies in the classroom setting, while also showing how distance learning can bring together students, teachers, inventors, mentors and role models in the pursuit of increasing opportunities for girls and women in STEM careers.