

Workshop - Career Success: Skills and Strategies

Carolyn J. Emerson

**Ass't to NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering
Atlantic Region**

**Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University
St. John's, NF Canada A1B 3X5**

emerson@engr.mun.ca

F. Mary Williams

NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, Atlantic Region

fmw@engr.mun.ca

ABSTRACT

Why do some people seem to move ahead easily, while others struggle in the shadows? There is a lot more to career success than working hard and staying out of trouble. This workshop introduces skills and strategies that are valuable to women in challenging fields and to women who are in the minority in professional situations. The workshop is one of a series of *Developing Leaders Workshops* designed to deliver information from *Becoming Leaders: A Handbook for Women in Science and Engineering and Their Mentors*. The workshop is an hour long, fun and interactive. The handbook will also be available from WISE Newfoundland and Labrador and CWSE at the conference.

Keywords: workshop, professional development, career success

WORKSHOP

Objective

With the recognition that individual women have responsibility and opportunity to advance their own career success, the NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the Atlantic Region (CWSE) and WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Newfoundland and Labrador have developed the *Becoming Leaders* handbook and the *Developing Leaders* workshops. A paper published elsewhere in the Proceedings, describes the backdrop, rationale, design, outcomes and further development of both the handbook and the workshops (1).

This workshop, *Career Success: Skills and Strategies* provides information, and introduces skills and

strategies to effect change and advance career progress. The format will also foster group support and networking opportunities.

Audience

The intended audience is women in science, engineering and technology fields with a special emphasis on women professionals early in their careers and senior women students.

Format

The hour-long workshop will consist of an introduction, information from the facilitator, participants' workbook, small group activities, discussion, wrap-up and evaluation.

Content

Career Success: Skills and Strategies introduces the participants to the question of what and who controls individual career success, and addresses the reality that women often face special challenges in 'being heard' and gaining promotion. Participants learn about 'high value' skills such as assertive communication, organizational awareness, networking, and negotiating strategies, which will ensure recognition for their achievements and improve access to professional opportunities.

Reference

1. Emerson, C.J., Williams, F.M. and Kieley, J. (2002). *Advancing Career Success: Professional Development Initiatives That Work for Women in Science and Engineering*. ICWES 12, Ottawa.