Why students choose engineering and how it relates to community engagement?

Gloria Montano, BSEE

These days it is rare to find discussion on the economy or employment that does not mention innovation and the need for more engineers. The prospects of a good salary and job security attract many students to engineering; however, are those reasons good enough to retain students through graduation, propel them into the workforce, and bring benefit back to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador? What other factors affect engineering student persistence? How do Memorial’s engineering students compare with engineering students at other universities and other students at Memorial? Under what conditions could community engagement and societal benefit be important to engineering students?

Join Gloria Montano for a discussion on findings on topics such as these from her recent master’s research project regarding first-year engineering students at Memorial University.

Gloria Montano is former director of the Virtual Development Center, a service-learning program of the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology in the United States. Ms. Montano is also a Fellow, Past President, and Distinguished New Engineer of the Society of Women Engineers, and she received the Chairman’s Achievement Award from Mentor Graphics and the Outstanding Service Award from Silicon Compilers Incorporated. Ms. Montano served on several boards for initiatives related to engineering and is a member of ACM, ASEE, IEEE, SWE, WEPAN, and WISE NL. She holds a BSEE from the University of Texas at El Paso and is currently a candidate for a master’s of education at Memorial.

Speaking of Engineering is hosted by the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial University and the Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Memorial University, St. John’s Campus
S.J. Carew Building; Room EN2006

Reception to follow
Admission is free. All are welcome.
Parking is available in Lot 16