

A workshop with Women Engineers and a Tour at StandardAero March 15, 2013

StandardAero is one of the world aerospace industry's largest independent maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) providers located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It offers engineering careers in a number of disciplines including repair & development, electrical, mechanical, process, system, service, performance to name a few.

Women in ME from UM and StandardAero jointly organized a tour to StandardAero. The tour consisted of a workshop with StandardAero women engineers - representing different positions: manager, director, service engineer, process engineer, etc. These woman engineers shared their experience and insights into opportunities, career progression, personal experiences, leadership, stress management, working in a male dominated environment and work/life balance. The students were then divided into two groups and toured StandardAero facilities with focus on engineering, science and latest technology. The tour was extremely successful and some students' response is shown below:

“All of the advice from the women who presented today was very inspirational and has made an impact on my journey as an engineer. I found the tour of the facility to be very interesting as well.”

“I thought every element of the morning was well planned and executed. I particularly appreciate the lack of formality in these events. They are comfortable, informative and motivational. I feel like they are my regular dose of therapy to keep me on track with my goals and my ideologies. Particularly valuable was the women's stories of failure and how nearly every one of them had a point (or many) where they broke under the pressure and wanted to quit. Most people won't admit to this but I think we all go through it and assume we are inferior to others and not cut out for the job, when in reality it indicates you are stretching beyond your capabilities and growing.”

“Engineering tours like this is a great opportunity for student to see how engineering is applied in the industry. It was also interesting to know, a quite number of women engineers are working in engineering disciplines like this. The talks on personal experiences were quite interesting and inspired me a lot.”

“It is motivating to see the contribution of women engineers in the industry. I really appreciate being part of the event. Thank you!”

“I really liked the event, especially getting advice from the women engineers and seeing their company's plant... I was wondering if similar events could be set up with other companies like Manitoba Hydro or MTS...”

“This tour is really profound to me not only since the enthusiasm of those women in engineering for their career, their interests in knowledge, their quests for perfection and their respect to each other impressed me greatly, moreover, during the tour, all these mentioned competitive qualities made me have a much more clear recognition about myself, say, my career plan, my own advantages and weaknesses.”

Pictures on the right: some students in front of StandardAero, workshop with StandardAero women engineers who share their passion, work and life experience, tour to different plants.

