

International Women's Day - STEM and the SDGs

Join us for this virtual event featuring women in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) from the University of Tasmania and University of Saskatchewan. These accomplished women will reflect upon the impact of openly sharing research and resources, aligning research with the SDGs, and why inclusion in STEM matters. #EmbraceEquity #IWD2023 @universityoftasmania @usask

Wednesday March 8th 4pm CST

Thursday March 9th 9am AEDT

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/96358213M1Ap9fTNmX>

Vimarsha Kodithuwakku, UTAS, is a biomedical PhD student at Menzies Institute for Medical Research. She observed how intense resource limitation in Sri Lankan schools can lead to a loss of interest in STEM fields, particularly biology, physics, and chemistry, and higher education aspirations. With the grant, she will provide hands-on models to underprivileged rural schools to facilitate science education. This will help students to understand biology, physics, and chemistry through active engagement, encourage them to seek knowledge, and motivate them to perceive higher education in STEM.

Mona Jalali, UTAS, is seeking to understand the 'how and why' of the world through chemistry, curiosity and persistence. With this funding, Mona will partner with two girls' high schools in Tehran, Iran, to equip chemistry laboratories with books and equipment for the students to earn through experimentation. Mona also will present her PhD journey and research, including the "significance of chemistry in our daily life" at two girls' high schools to spark interest and boost the self-confidence and aspirations of the next generation of Iranian girls in STEM fields.

Michaela Sidloski, USask, is a PhD candidate in the School of Environment and Sustainability. Her research builds on feminist scholarship that suggests that social dimensions (e.g., gender, age, racialized identity, socioeconomic status, etc.) play important roles in how people experience and respond to climate change impacts. She is currently working with a forest-based community in northern British Columbia to co-design a process for climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning that accounts for social dimensions within the community. Ultimately, this work will empower communities to pursue more equitable adaptation strategies that centre marginalized voices, interests, and needs.

Marlee Wells, UTAS, is a neuroscience PhD student at the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre. Growing up in rural Tasmania and attending a small district school she had to overcome many barriers to keep her spark for science alive. Marlee will use this grant to travel to district schools and fund around Tasmania and fund workshops on how to successfully transition from rural schools to university. At these workshops she will also present neuroscience-based activities to encourage interest and passion for science.

Danielle Spence, USask, is a PhD candidate with the School of Environment and Sustainability and the Global Institute for Water Security. Her PhD research takes a collaborative approach, working with end users and communities to understand the formation and management of harmful algal blooms in freshwater lakes. Danielle seeks to contribute to more informed and equitable environmental decision-

making by better understanding how people value freshwater ecosystem services, as well as how aspects of identity may contribute to inequities in access to ecosystem services. @usask_water