



## **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GET EXCITED FOR ENGINEERING**

October 27, 2017

Kelowna, BC – More than 120 young women from Central Okanagan Public Schools visited UBC Okanagan's Engineering building today to discover career paths in engineering fields. The Go ENG Girl field study aims to help close the gender gap in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

"We know that there is a gender disparity for people working in the STEM fields today," says Patti Ostrikkoff, Career Life Programs Coordinator for Central Okanagan Public Schools. "A day like this really helps build interest in engineering for young women early on in their academic careers, and it shows them that they belong and have a future in STEM fields."

Throughout the day, groups of learners from Grades 7, 8, and 9 attended discussions and participated in hands-on activities in areas such as Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

"It's really cool," says Grade 8 student Lucy, as she toys with an Ozobot that she is programming to complete a circuit. "I thought engineering was just about building stuff, but now that I'm here, I see how many different areas there are. Like these Ozobots – they're amazing, and I had never thought about how these things work."

"I think days like these are so important because it gives girls a chance to get really excited about something that maybe they've never experienced before," says Jenna Hutchen, an Engineering student at UBC Okanagan. "They get to experience it in a really hands-on, tactile way that's so much more fun than just sitting in a classroom, listening to lectures."

The Go ENG Girl program takes place twice a year to ensure that interested learners from across Central Okanagan Public Schools have the opportunity get a clearer understanding of the variety of careers in engineering.

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For comments, please contact:

Patti Ostrikkoff, Career Life Programs Coordinator, 250-212-5590

Chris Ovelson, Career Life Programs Coordinator, 250-860-9729