

PROFESSIONAL-IN-TRAINING AWARD

JANE POLAK SCOWCROFT, EIT



Ms. Jane Polak Scowcroft graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2008 with a B.Sc in Computer Engineering. Jane was named as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network, and was highlighted in the Globe and Mail national newspaper in 2007. Jane became a student member of APEGM in 2005 and an Engineer-in-Training (EIT) in June of 2009.

In summer of 2005, Jane spent 4 months in Northern Tanzania as a Junior Fellow from Engineers Without Borders (EWB). During her stay, Jane worked with a local non-governmental organization called Family Alliance for Development and Cooperation. Jane designed and developed post-harvest technologies for fruit and vegetables drying for preservation during the dry summer season. Jane also personally mentored a number of Tanzanian students from local schools looking to further develop their post-school work and educational opportunities.

In the 2006-2007 school year, Jane increased her involvement with EWB by campaigning for and winning the position of Co-president of the University of Manitoba chapter. As an executive member of EWB, she managed and facilitated outreach, education, fundraising and advocacy. In addition to EWB, Jane also served as an executive member of UMES and in the University of Manitoba's Engineering Endowment Fund Advisory Committee. In these roles, Jane has acted as a mentor to a number of young women, particularly in connection to Computer Engineering.

Jane received recognition through the Gold Medal Student Award for outstanding leadership, contributions to society and volunteerism by an undergraduate engineering student, awarded by Engineers Canada in 2008. Jane was also named the Young Woman of Distinction in 2008, awarded by the YWCA. This award recognized a young woman who is respected and admired for her achievements and commitment to her school, workplace and community and is a positive influence on her peers. In several media engagements, Jane has repeatedly stressed the importance of encouraging a global perspective in engineering practice, the impact that engineers can have in their community and globally, and the critical need to encourage more women to enter into the engineering profession.

Jane is currently serving on the National Board of Directors of EWB and fulfilled the role of Promotions and Communications Coordinator for the biennial conference of Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering, Science, Technology and Trades (SETT), in 2010. Jane has served as the Youth Ambassador for the Australian and New Zealand pavilion for Winnipeg's Folklorama, is currently the co-coordinator for the Apprentice Crew for the Winnipeg's Folk Festival and is a volunteer for Winnipeg Art Gallery for the past 4 years.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba is pleased to present the Professional-in-Training Award for 2010 to Jane Polak Scowcroft, an exemplary individual, committed to her community and to her profession.