ILLUMINATE!

ILLUMINATE! is an award winning program that provides experiences to support youth in making more informed choices about their future careers. It reaches out to communities across the province integrating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) innovation and careers. For participating professionals and organizations, this is a valuable opportunity to highlight the activities related to their career or industry. These events help develop interests and inspire the next generation in your community. For students, the events provide discussion with real professionals as well as opportunities to handle or experience tools/technologies used in different fields.

Why do we need to raise awareness of STEM careers amongst youth & their families? Research consistently shows the majority of youth have very limited knowledge of the variety of STEM-based careers available. By middle school, students are already thinking about what they might pursue as a career and developing preferences for subjects based on their experiences. In a Science East survey of 100 grade 6 students, 30% answered they were unlikely to have a career that required science subjects yet named a science-based profession as their future career choice! Parents and families have the greatest influence on their children's life decisions. ILLUMINATE! events make connections for youth & their families between science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects and the realities of employment today.

What happens at ILLUMINATE! events?

Dependent on the size of the school involved, each **ILLUMINATE!** event varies in length from between 1-3 days. Regardless of the scheduled length, every event is divided into two distinctive parts. **Part 1** is school and classroom-based and includes hands-on activities with Science East for students and their teachers only. **Part 2** involves students, their families and the community coming to the school in the evening. During this time, local businesses and organizations participate by highlighting STEM careers available in their workplace using hands-on activities offered by a person holding a job in that particular field.

Shedding light on Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

SCIENCE EAST