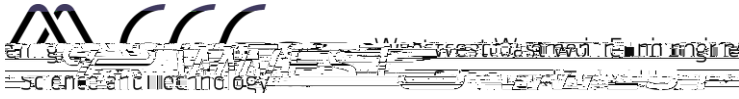


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DEANNA

The most rewarding work in engineering so far has been the variety, and the fact that because of the



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trying to learn about it is I go join their board. If you look at the list of boards I'm on, you can get a sense of what I'm curious about, how it works.

DR. LESLEY SHANNON



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SHAYLENE DEKOCK-KRUGER

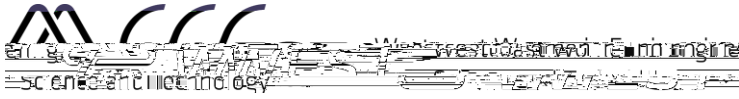
For me, indigenizing STEM education means bridging the gap between Indigenous knowledge and the traditional way of doing things, you know, with the existing industries and infrastructure that we have today. And bridging those with the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that we have. I've always been a huge believer in knowledge being power. I think that if more Indigenous people decided to pursue degrees in STEM and work in industry for say, three to five years, and then bring that knowledge back to their Indigenous communities, I think that they would be able to help their Indigenous communities make better decisions going forward in terms of economic development. Just because when you're in school, particularly in engineering, you really exercise that problem solving part of your brain. And then just to add on to that, and accepting that, you know, economic development, it's not always a bad word. You know, the literal definition of economic development is the process where the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region, or local community are improved according to targeted goals and objectives. So, with more Indigenous people having degrees in STEM, I think this would be to an overall better quality of life for Indigenous people in the future. It's not just about Indigenous people, you know, studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics because they find it interesting studying these topics and thinking more long term on, you know, ways to give back to community and society, while also thinking about the future environmental footprint.

SHAYLENE

She also goes by Styawat, which is her Squamish name. Her research takes a community-based approach and is influenced by her experience as an Indigenous woman reconnecting to her cultural roots. Wherever possible, she draws on ancestral teachings that are connected to traditional plants and the land in her research. In 2012, Leigh graduated with a Master of Science in Ethnobotany from the University of Victoria, under the guidance of Dr. Nancy Turner, and she is currently pursuing her doctoral studies. She has worked with many Canadian Indigenous communities over the past decade on ethnobotany related community projects. Leigh's family has experienced intergenerational trauma resulting from residential school and other colonial impacts. Many of her families did not grow up with land-based practices. She believes that harvesting plants and being on the land offers an opportunity to reconnect to identity, and to honor the people who fought to keep this knowledge alive.

LEIGH JOSEPH

So, the place that I come from with my work is wanting to contribute to community and wanting to bring my particular skill set and experience and collaborate with work that's already happening, at a grass roots level or work that's happening on the ground in community. The first place that I started this was with my home community of Squamish Nation, in the upper Squamish valley, and I didn't grow up in Squa



JOCELYN

I guess one of the key things in the Yukon, we're very successful in achieving our final agreements, or our treaties for those listeners outside of the North. We've had self-government here. And self-government means that we have established a government that lies under the constitution at the same level as the Yukon government, we can enact our own laws, we can- we have a Lands Department, and education Department of formally set up government, just as the Yukon Government, or Provincial Government operates. But we govern for our own people, but we also govern in collaboration with the Yukon, and with Canada. Our agreements were for all residents of the Yukon and Canada. , and so we are really trying to achieve this prosperity for our people, but then also for our collaboration and our cooperation in how we manage the land, and how we manage the people who live there. And it's all in trying to work together to strengthen culture and strengthen- I guess re-balance values in how we make decisions for the land.

potentially move back to that, and I do think that- I think the 9 to 5 segregation of ages, is quite damaging to us. And is there a way that we can kind of come back to that, even the traditional- even our school system of segregating ages. You know, originally we used to all be together. And categorizing and evaluating ages too, we all- even having babies you recognize that some babies might walk at 10 months, but some babies might walk at, I don't know, 14 months but you know eventually they're all walking so it's all good. But, yeah I don't know, I was thinking about how we can change that.

VANESSA

Thank you so much for listening to this episode today. And thanks again to all of our Indigenous guests who have been on Best to the WWEST. Your input and insights are invaluable in this time of truth and reconciliation and we are proud to be doing even just a small bit in the truth and reconciliation process. We acknowledge the Best of the WWEST is hosted and produced on the unseeded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-waututh nations. Best of the WWEST is also produced on treaty six territory. Best of the WWEST has featured many guests and has been hosted and produced by people of different lands, countries and cultures. But we also acknowledge that we are settlers on this land. Part of the aim of this podcast is to create a space to teach and learn. But we also realized the struggle for Indigenous rights is deeply connected to all human rights work, and is especially important in equity, diversity, and inclusion work. We hope our work with this podcast has helped and will continue to help amplifying the voices of Indigenous women and Indigenous two spirit and non-binary folks in STEM. Thanks again for listening.

Outro

If you enjoyed this episode and want to keep up with all the latest news on women in STEM, you can visit us online at wwest.ca. There, you can subscribe to our bi weekly newsletter, connect with us on social media, and more. From everyone at Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology, thanks for listening.