

IEEE London WIE Annual Reception: Key Competencies for Innovative Leaders!

On the behalf of IEEE London WIE, I would like to thank IEEE WIE for approving our fund request and for their support. On Nov. 14, 2017, WE70007 – IEEE London Section WIE Affinity Group hosted its Annual Reception: “Key Competencies for Innovative Leaders!” with Member of Parliament of Canada, Kate Young, who had been an elected representative in the riding of London West in House of Commons of Canada in the Canadian federal election 2015. Kate shared with us her career journey, her support for STEM, and advice for becoming a successful leader. The event was hosted at 6:30 PM in SEB 3102, Spencer Engineering Building, Western University. Our group invited everyone to join the IEEE London WIE annual reception. Therefore, our attendees were distributed between women and men engineers/scientists. We had 32 people: ~20 attendees were women engineers/scientists, which is a great number compared to our small section. During this annual reception, IEEE London WIE served catering to all the attendees. Our agenda was as follows:

- 6:30-7:00 Networking + Catering
- 7:00-7:20 IEEE WIE Introduction by IEEE London WIE Chair
- 7:20-8:00 Guest Speaker Talk + Q/A session
- 8:00-9:00 Networking + Catering

At the beginning of the event, IEEE London WIE Chair gave presentation on IEEE WIE (who we are and what are we about, how to improve experience with IEEE WIE) and promoted the IEEE WIE membership, volunteering with IEEE WIE, IEEE WIE International Leadership Conference (ILC), and women engagement in the STEM fields. The gender distribution, we had in the event, allowed us to express the need for a diverse society that breaks the stereotype, ensures the engagement of women in the STEM fields and sees gender as an advantage, not as two opposing ideas. Then our special guest speaker shared with us her journey for becoming a successful leader, challenges she faced as a woman in politics and leadership, lessons learned during that path, and numerous stepping-stones tactic to sustain the focus on STEM profession. Our guest speaker was both engaged and engaging and attendees were inspired, which is always our goal. We had an interesting discussion about challenges facing women in STEM, advice to overcome them, and how IEEE WIE is working toward ensuring both engagement, advancement, recognition, and retention of women engineers/scientists. At the end of the honorable guest talk and Q/A session, attendees were able to network with other members, enjoy food, and learn from our guest speaker's leadership!

On a final note, our group is very grateful for your support and fund approval. Thank You!