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### Exploring all options

Published on May 17, 2012

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#### Young girls learn about trades, realize many opportunities are available

Topics : Nova Scotia Community College Truro , Truro Junior High School , Pictou Academy , TRURO , Hants North , Herring Cove

TRURO - If young girls weren't thinking about a career with a trade, they certainly are now.

Girls in Grade 9 from 10 different schools were at the Nova Scotia Community College Truro campus yesterday afternoon for Techsplorator an innovative program to provide mentoring to thousands of young women across the province.

"This has changed my perception of what a tradesperson can do," said Sabrina Williams, one of 15 students from Truro Junior High School that were guests to the day-long event.

"It really broke down the stereotypes I had of the trades. Women are getting their hands dirty."

Throughout the year, Techsplorator provides young women with opportunities to explore science, trades, technical and technology-related occupations, while creating awareness about the critical role of work in their lives.

For Sarah Zolkivski, the event opened her eyes to what might be available as a trade.

"You can be creative with some trades because some are art-related," she said, adding she isn't a fan of mathematics or science so she hadn't thought about entering a trade before.

"The main thing that caught my eye was the geologist. She does some oceanography, but I wouldn't be interested in that. She's seen a lot of the world by studying rocks and it made me realize there's a lot more to it," she said.

While the students had their eyes opened to possible careers they may not have thought about, the event was an eye-opener for Katie Curry.

"I'm interested in hairstyling and I never knew hairstyling was a trade," she said. "I learned there are a lot of opportunities with trades. I only thought it was things like cutting down trees and studying rocks. I didn't know there were so many things that are exciting."

The students were amazed when it came to how much a tradesperson can make, sometimes while also travelling the world.

"You don't have to be a fancy lawyer or a doctor to make a lot of money. With less (post-secondary) education, trades pay money more quickly," said Sabrina. "We were told of a youth apprentice that, at the age of 22 years, was making more than \$50,000 a year. That just blew my mind. That's intense. By taking a trade, there are opportunities actually out there."

Schools involved at the event in Truro included Bridgewater Junior Senior High School, Hants North Rural High School, Prince Arthur Junior High School, Pictou Academy, Wagmatcook First Nation School, Duncan MacMillan High School, St. Agnes Junior High School and Herring Cove Junior High School. Two guest schools were also invited to send participants - Truro Junior High School and Ecole acadienne de Truro.

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