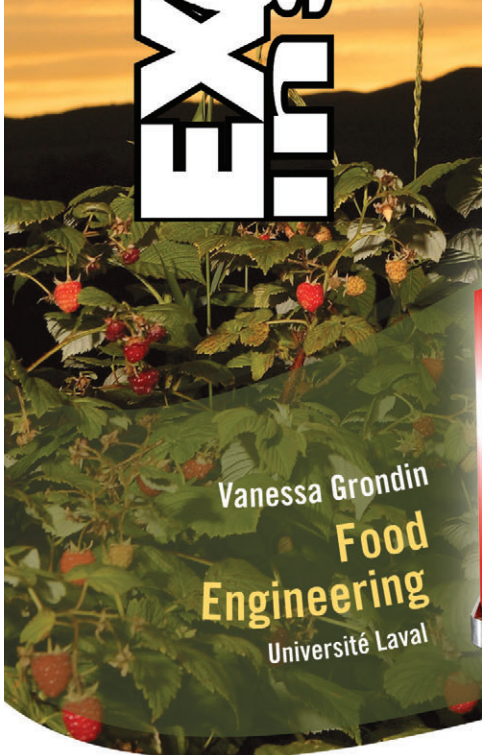


EXCELLENCE



Vanessa Grondin
Food
Engineering
Université Laval



2005-2006 Contest Prizes:

- Cash prizes from \$2 000 to \$5 000
- Paid work placements
- Career development trips in the Americas or Belgium

Application Deadline: February 10, 2006
www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau

Québec 



EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE 2 2005-2006 CONTEST

The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport**, in collaboration with the **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation**, is inviting women enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in selected branches of the pure sciences, in the information sciences or in engineering (see the list of eligible programs in Section 1) to take part in the *Excellence in Science* Contest. Both of the above-mentioned government departments will be awarding 10 cash prizes of \$2 000, one cash prize of \$3 000 and four cash prizes of \$5 000. Additional prizes will be awarded by the following partners:

- ➔ Agence Québec Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse
- ➔ Centrale des syndicats du Québec
- ➔ Confédération des syndicats nationaux in collaboration with the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec and the Fédération des professionnelles
- ➔ Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
- ➔ GlaxoSmithKline
- ➔ Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation
- ➔ Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs
- ➔ Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
- ➔ Ministère des Transports
- ➔ Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse

This contest, held in Québec university-level institutions, is intended specifically for women enrolled in programs leading to a bachelor's degree in a field of science where women account for less than a third of the workforce. Graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels are not eligible for this contest.

The *Excellence in Science* Contest, which is the counterpart of the *Hats Off to You!* competition in the sciences, is organized by the Secteur de la

formation professionnelle et technique et de la formation continue (vocational and technical training and lifelong learning division) of the **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport** with the financial support of the Ministère's Secteur de l'enseignement supérieur (higher education division).

Like the *Hats Off to You!* competition for women in vocational and technical training programs, the *Excellence in Science* Contest is aimed at familiarizing women with the many career options open to them and at encouraging those training for nontraditional occupations to persevere until they earn their diploma.

Awards Ceremony

The winners of the *Excellence in Science* Contest will receive their prizes at the provincial awards ceremony for the *Hats Off to You!* competition, to be held on May 8, 2006.

Assistance for Award Winners

Placement étudiant du Québec (PEQ) will be offering counselling services in job hunting and will help to connect award winners with potential employers.

Women in Science Programs: A Force to Build On

Even if there are many female university students, they are very much underrepresented in the sciences and engineering, which are the fields with the most promising and most highly paid careers. Women currently account for about 20% of the workforce in these fields.

The *Excellence in Science* Contest is organized to help expand women's career choices and generate interest among women in technical and scientific fields.

Objectives:

- ➔ Recognize women who choose a traditionally male-dominated career
- ➔ Reward their hard work
- ➔ Provide success stories for women to emulate
- ➔ Encourage women to pick a non-stereotyped career
- ➔ Help female students overcome specific problems related to their minority status within a predominantly male group

The *Excellence in Science* Contest: A Major Event

"In addition to providing recognition, the contest favourably affects student perseverance and work placement." This is the consensus among women who completed a survey on the *Hats Off to You!* competition and the *Excellence in Science* Contest.¹

The *Excellence in Science* Contest award winners interviewed for this survey feel that the contest provided them with the financial support that made it easier to achieve their career goals. In addition, a number of them thought that they had helped to make traditionally male-dominated careers better known among women.

Keep in mind that the award winners from previous years may become mentors so that they can inform young women of possible career choices or provide support to those who would like to enter the contest. They can be contacted at <www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>.

¹ Québec, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, *Sortir des sentiers battus. Le cheminement de femmes qui optent pour un métier traditionnellement masculin*. Summary of research report and courses of action (Québec: Gouvernement du Québec, 2005), 16. [Free Translation].



SECTION 1 Eligibility Requirements

- ➔ Candidates must have attended a university-level institution in Québec in 2005-2006 and have been enrolled full-time in one of the following programs (or a similar or related program):

Pure Sciences

- 5215 Biophysics
- 5240 Physical sciences
- 5243 Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
- 5244 Geology (mineralogy)

Applied Sciences

- 5340 Information sciences
- 5350 Engineering
- 5352 Aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical engineering
- 5353 Agricultural engineering, rural engineering
- 5354 Food engineering
- 5356 Chemical engineering
- 5358 Civil, construction and transportation engineering
- 5359 Electrical, electronic and communication engineering
- 5360 Mechanical engineering
- 5361 Geological engineering
- 5363 Industrial and administrative engineering
- 5364 Metallurgical and materials engineering
- 5368 Mining engineering
- 5369 Engineering physics
- 5371 Surveying
- 5373 Computer and information systems engineering
- 5375 Forestry engineering, forestry and silviculture

- ➔ Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have resided in Québec for at least one year.
- ➔ There is no age limit for participating in the contest. However, special eligibility requirements may apply to certain categories, namely Category 2, Career Development Trips Outside Québec. Candidates must therefore carefully read over the eligibility requirements described in this brochure.
- ➔ Previous winners do not qualify for this year's contest.
- ➔ Candidates cannot claim more than one prize.

SECTION 2 Portfolio

Candidates must submit the following:

- 1 a duly completed registration form (included in this brochure)
- 2 a letter of introduction of no more than two pages (see Section 3)
- 3 a short essay of no more than one page for candidates in a thematic category
- 4 a résumé
- 5 a copy of the most recent transcript issued by the university attended

No items (objects, photographs, special documents, etc.) other than the documents listed above will be accepted for the purposes of evaluating portfolios.

SECTION 3 Letter of Introduction

Presentation Requirements

- ➔ Not more than two pages long
- ➔ Typed with one-and-a-half line spacing
- ➔ Printed on one side on white letter-sized paper
- ➔ Margins (top, bottom, left and right) of at least 1.5 cm
- ➔ 11-point Arial font, with full justification of the text



The letter of introduction must include the following information in order to meet the selection criteria (see Section 4):

- 1 **Personal history and reason(s) for choosing a traditionally male-dominated occupation**
 - a) What are the highlights of your personal, academic or working life?
 - b) How did you get interested in a traditionally male-dominated occupation?
- 2 **Aptitudes and strategies for remaining in a traditionally male-dominated field**
 - a) What aptitudes or personal qualities do you have that will allow you to achieve personal fulfillment in an occupation where women are in a minority?
 - b) What strategies do you use that will help you persevere and succeed in an occupation traditionally reserved for men?
- 3 **Your knowledge of your chosen occupation and career objectives**
 - a) Describe your chosen occupation, the duties involved and the related working conditions.
 - b) What are your goals for the future in your chosen occupation?
- 4 **Personal actions or occupational achievements**

Which of your actions or achievements demonstrate your commitment (in terms of education, society and the community) in relation to your chosen occupation?
- 5 **Your reasons for entering the contest**

What are your reasons for entering the contest and why do you believe you should be selected to participate?

SECTION 4 Selection Criteria

Portfolios will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- submission of a complete portfolio
- quality of the presentation
- compliance with presentation requirements
- clarity of the portfolio documents
- authenticity and persuasiveness of the portfolio documents
- relevance of the reasons for entering the contest
- academic achievement

SECTION 5 Application Process and Deadline

The candidate must:

- 1 Prepare her portfolio (duly completed registration form, letter of introduction, résumé, copy of most recent university transcript and, if applicable, a short essay);
- 2 Check off the appropriate boxes on the registration form to indicate the thematic categories in which she intends to compete
- 3 Send her portfolio by **February 10, 2006** to the following address:

Excellence in Science Contest

Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 12^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5
Telephone: (418) 646-4624
Fax: (418) 643-1926
chapeaulesfilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca

CATEGORY 1 Cash Prizes

Excellence in Science

The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport** will be awarding five prizes of \$2 000 and two prizes of \$5 000, and the **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation** will likewise be awarding five prizes of \$2 000 and two prizes of \$5 000. **GlaxoSmithKline** will be awarding one prize of \$5 000.

Requirements

Candidates must be enrolled in one of the programs listed in Section 1. In addition, they must submit a portfolio that meets the requirements in Section 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about the involvement of women in scientific occupations:

- ➔ What do you think about the fact that women are underrepresented in scientific or technological careers?
- ➔ In your opinion, what factors prevent greater numbers of women from embarking on a career in science and technology?
- ➔ What measures could be taken to encourage girls in this regard?
- ➔ What do you think about the image that researchers currently have?

Next Generation

The **Ministère de l'Éducation du Loisir et du Sport** and the **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation** will be jointly awarding a prize of \$3 000 to a first-year female student enrolled in one of the programs listed in Section 1.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about the new generation of women in sciences:

- ➔ In your opinion, what factors prevent greater numbers of women from embarking on a career in science and technology?
- ➔ In your opinion, what measures should be taken to ensure that there is a new generation of women choosing a career in science and technology?



Agriculture

The **Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation** will be awarding a prize of \$2 000 to a female student enrolled in agricultural engineering, rural engineering (5353) or food engineering (5354).

Requirements

Candidates must submit a portfolio that meets the requirements in Section 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page on agri-foods, and that answers the following questions:

- How will the competencies you have acquired during your training prepare you to work in the field of agri-foods?
- What is your current involvement in the field?

Transportation

The **Ministère des Transports** will be awarding one cash prize of \$2 000 to a candidate who is enrolled in one of the following programs (or a similar or related program):

- 5350** Engineering
- 5352** Aerspatial, aeronautical and astronautical engineering
- 5358** Civil, construction and transportation engineering
- 5371** Surveying

Requirements

Candidates must submit a portfolio that meets the requirements in Section 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page on transportation, and that answers the following questions:

- In your opinion, what is the main challenge in the field of transportation today?
- How have your education and training prepared you to meet this challenge?



Equity

The **Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)** will be awarding one cash prize of \$2 000 to a candidate who left an unstable job (part-time, on call, on contract, temporary, etc.) to train or retrain, voluntarily and after careful consideration, for a traditionally male-dominated career.

Requirements

Candidates must meet all the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on their personal experience in an unstable job, as well as their past, present and future experiences with union, social or volunteer involvement, answering each of the following questions:

- ➔ Why did you choose to train or retrain for a traditionally male-dominated occupation?
- ➔ How will your experience and training (and not your personal qualities or sense of humour) help you:
 - enter the job market and keep your job?
 - improve your own situation **as well as the working conditions for women in general**?

Note: The jury of the **Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)** reserves the right not to award a prize if not all of the requirements are met.



Cultural or Native Communities

The **Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)**, the **Fédération national des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ)** and the **Fédération des professionnelles (FP)** will together be awarding a prize of \$2 000 to a woman who has chosen a nontraditional occupation and who is either a native person or someone who regards herself as a member of a cultural community.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about the involvement of women from cultural communities in nontraditional occupations:

- As a member of a cultural community, what obstacles did you have to face?
- Were you encouraged to fulfill your ambition? If so, how?
- What motivated you to choose a nontraditional occupation?

Perseverance

The **Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)** will be awarding a prize of \$2 000 to a female student who has shown exceptional perseverance in learning a traditionally male-dominated occupation.

This award recognizes perseverance in the achievement of career goals. It is not designed to reward those who have overcome physical or social handicaps. Perseverance may be demonstrated in a number of ways, for instance by taking an upgrading course, overcoming special obstacles (e.g. being far from one's family, having a baby, family responsibilities, stereotypes), or making lifestyle choices in order to continue their education.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page that describes their perseverance in learning their occupation, while answering the following questions:

- What obstacles did you encounter and how did you overcome them?
- How did you motivate yourself to persevere in pursuing your career goals? Describe your experience.

CATEGORY 2

Career Development Trips Outside Québec

Career Development Trip—Wallonia or Brussels

A bursary will be awarded by the **Agence Québec Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse (AQWBJ)** for a career development trip to Wallonia or Brussels.

This bursary will allow the best candidate in this category to do a work placement with a company connected to their field of study. The trip will last from six to 12 weeks, will be supervised by the AQWBJ and will take place between September 2006 and August 2007.

The AQWBJ Bursary includes:

- exemption from the registration fees for the AQWBJ program, the identification of a suitable company and completion of the administrative formalities for obtaining a work permit and temporary visa for Wallonia or Brussels
- a \$700 allowance for round-trip air transportation between Montréal and Brussels
- a total living allowance of \$1 200 paid by AQWBJ

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- be between 18 and 30 years of age at the time of the work placement
- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident and have resided in Québec for at least one year

Conditions

The candidate must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

She must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which she answers the following questions:

- What personal reasons and objectives led you to apply for a career development trip to Wallonia or Brussels?
- How will your participation in a career development trip to Wallonia or Brussels help improve mutual understanding between two French-speaking communities and encourage cooperation in an increasingly international environment?
- How will this experience help you enhance your skills and further your personal and professional development?

Career Development Trip—the Americas

Financial assistance for a career development trip will be provided by the **Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse (OQAJ)** to the best candidate in this category. This stay (e.g. work placement, applied research practicum) will last from four to 12 weeks and must be related to the selected candidate's field of study.

Each OQAJ prize includes:

- round-trip transportation between Montréal and the destination for the career development trip in the Americas
- a local transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport
- a living allowance of \$1 500 paid by the OQAJ
- travel insurance

Responsibilities of the Selected Candidate

The selected candidate is entirely responsible for finding a host organization for her career development trip, as well as for following the administrative procedures related to the requirements for entering the destination country (obtaining a temporary visa or any other formality) within the required time. The OQAJ is in no way responsible for the procedures involved in obtaining temporary visas or for paying any costs related to it.

Award winners must complete their career development trip within 12 months after they are awarded this prize (i.e. before May 2007).

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of the career development trip
- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and have resided in Québec for at least one year
- have the language skills necessary for the career development trip (specify languages spoken - English, Portuguese, Spanish).

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also answer the following questions:

- How is a career development trip in the Americas likely to help you enhance your skills and further your career development?
- How will your participation in a career development trip in the Americas help to improve mutual understanding and develop a cooperative relationship between Québec and the host country?

EXCELLENCE
in science



CATEGORY 3 Paid Work Placements

Work Placement in the Environmental Sector

A paid work placement worth approximately \$6 500 will be awarded by the **Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs**.

The 12-to-15-week work placement must be a compulsory part of the selected candidate's program or carry credits toward her diploma, further to an agreement between the Ministère and the educational institution. The selected candidate is responsible for making sure that her educational institution will recognize the work placement as part of her program. The selected candidate may opt for a \$2 000 cash prize instead of the work placement.

Candidates must be enrolled in one of the following programs (or a similar or related program):

- 5215 Biophysics
- 5243 Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
- 5350 Engineering
- 5356 Chemical engineering
- 5358 Civil engineering
- 5360 Mechanical engineering
- 5363 Industrial and administrative engineering
- 5364 Metallurgical and materials engineering
- 5368 Mining engineering
- 5371 Surveying
- 5375 Forest engineering, forestry and silviculture

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about environmental protection:

- How will the skills acquired in your university program help you become professionally involved in environmental protection?
- How are you currently involved in environmental protection?



Work Placement in the Natural Resources Sector

A paid work placement worth approximately \$5 500 will be awarded by the **Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune**.

Lasting approximately 15 weeks, this work placement will be awarded to the best candidate in this category and will carry credits toward her diploma, further to an agreement with the educational institution. The selected candidate is responsible for making sure that her educational institution will recognize the work placement as part of her program.

Candidates must be enrolled in one of the following programs (or a similar or related program):

- 5358** Civil, construction and transportation engineering
- 5364** Metallurgical and materials engineering
- 5368** Mining engineering
- 5361** Geological engineering
- 5369** Engineering physics
- 5371** Surveying
- 5375** Forest engineering, forestry and silviculture

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general contest requirements in Sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about natural resources:

- How will the skills acquired in your university program help you become professionally involved in areas related to natural resources?
- How are you currently involved in these areas?



Registration Form To Be Completed by the Candidate

FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME

SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER
(COMPULSORY)

--	--	--	--

DATE OF BIRTH

YEAR	MONTH	DAY

PERMANENT ADDRESS

NUMBER AND STREET

--

APARTMENT

--

CITY OR TOWN	POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER
WITH AREA CODE

() -

CELLULAR TELEPHONE
WITH AREA CODE

() -

E-MAIL ADDRESS

--

ADDRESS DURING SCHOOL YEAR (if different)

NUMBER AND STREET

--

APARTMENT

--

CITY OR TOWN	POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER
WITH AREA CODE:

() -

RECOMMENDATION

I have read the portfolio submitted for the *Excellence in Science* Contest and I endorse the entry of:

CANDIDATE'S NAME

--

NAME OF PERSON RECOMMENDING THE CANDIDATE

--

TITLE

--

SIGNATURE:

--

DATE

YEAR	MONTH	DAY

EXCELLENCE



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Québec 

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