

Awareness via Science East's career-based school programs

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Science East is New Brunswick's most active public science and technology education organization and is recognized nationally amongst Canadian science centres as providing some of the best science education outreach programs in the country. All Science East programs and services are available in both official languages.

Though physically located in Fredericton, the vast majority of Science East's work takes place outside the science centre via extensive outreach in every region of the province. In 2014–2015, Science East had 15 200 visitors at the science centre and served another 31 000 across the province through outreach. For example, in the last 5 years, the 1–4 day Illuminate STEM career program has engaged over 20 000 New Brunswickers. In May of 2014 Science East was awarded the prestigious *Best Outreach Program in Canada* by the Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC) for the *Illuminate: Shedding Light on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)* career-based program. This award is given each year for the best educational, interpretive, or public program in Canada. In 2009 Science East won this same award for the *Nights of Environmental Science* program which continue to run strong. The award is a significant testimony to the quality of these programs.

Science East places an imperative in all its programs and services on addressing the disconnection between education and the world of work and has established a network of over 500 individual New Brunswick science and technology content partners. These businesses, researchers, non-profits, public agencies, innovators and entrepreneurs are drawn from the surrounding communities and regions in which Science East programs take place. These content partners come to the local schools to showcase hundreds of ways that past, present and future tools and technologies are improving lives in our province and changing the way we do things.

Recently, Science East has added *Envirothon NB: the Province's largest environmental science high school competition* to its repertoire. Participants gain valuable knowledge and training in ecology and natural resource management principles and practices. Many students step away from the Envirothon experience excited about learning and motivated to pursue careers in environmental studies, environmental law, natural sciences, and natural resource management.

The Centre has been designing and delivering hands-on and inquiry-based experiential science education since 1994.