

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Opportunity: Summer computer camp at SFU designed to increase women in artificial intelligence-interactive student demos working with robot on July 12th and 20th

July 10, 2018

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SFU is helping close the STEM gender gap through *Invent the Future*, a trailblazing summer enrichment program to help increase the number of Canadian girls considering careers in computer science and artificial intelligence (AI).

STEM is an acronym representing science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Twenty-four female Grade 11 students from across Canada will be immersed in life as an AI researcher on SFU's Burnaby campus from July 8-20, 2018. Young women from rural areas with less access to STEM programs received priority registration to the program.

There are two opportunities for media to check out what the students are learning about AI and robots, to shoot b-roll, and to interview the students and Angelica Lim—SFU computing science professor and *Invent the Future* program director.

Opportunity one: humanoid robot tutorial and demo

VISUALS: Students will be learning how to work with *Pepper*, the first humanoid robot capable of recognizing the principal human emotions and adapting its behavior to the mood of its interlocutor.

WHEN: July 12, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Arrive at 11:30 a.m., half-way through the hour-long workshop, to capture b-roll of students in the classroom. Following the workshop, we will hold a demo of the robot for the media. As well, a few of the students and professor Lim will be available for interviews.)

WHERE: [SFU Burnaby Campus](#) (TASC1 9204 — access through the Applied Science Building.)

Opportunity two: interactive demo session

VISUALS: One of the student groups will use a humanoid robot to demonstrate how artificial intelligence can be used to improve the well-being of humans. Another student group will showcase, in a presentation, how a future AI mobile app will be able to detect food on a plate and evaluate its nutritional value for the diner.

WHEN: July 20, 2018 from 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: [SFU Burnaby Campus](#) (Big Data Hub Atrium located in the Applied Science Building)

Fast Facts

- Initiatives like *Invent the Future* help support gender equality in the male-dominated STEM industry
- According to the [Information and Communications Technology Council](#), the tech industry comprises 25 percent women and 75 percent men—despite the Canadian workforce being almost equal

- According to Statistics Canada, women comprise just 25 per cent of computing science and math programs at Canadian universities
- AI is a key sector for growth in Canada, with a recent \$125-million government investment in a pan-Canadian AI strategy
- SFU is participating in [AI4ALL](#), an initiative to increase diversity and inclusion in the field of AI
- SFU is one of six universities participating in AI4ALL's official roll out in 2018, and the only one in Canada. Stanford University, Princeton University, University of California Berkeley, Boston University and Carnegie Mellon University are the American partner organizations.
- SoftBank Robotics has donated the Pepper robots being used in this program.

Learn more

- [Original release: SFU helps close STEM gender gap through summer AI program](#)

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As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded more than 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 145,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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