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Students Aspire to STEM Careers at Geraldton Regional Festival

Secondary students in the Geraldton region will get a fascinating insight into STEM careers and education pathways at the STEM Festival Geraldton, held in partnership with Scitech and Central Regional TAFE on 11 and 12 May.

STEM Festival Geraldton is a comprehensive science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) career expo and science festival for year 9 – 12 students, with stall holders from local and Perth-based STEM organisations and tertiary education providers.

Since 2018, Scitech has teamed up with a regional centre organisation to offer local students access to career information, understanding and inspiration that they may not otherwise receive. These events are made possible through the generosity of Rio Tinto, with comprehensive career expos held in Kalgoorlie (2018), Albany (2019) and now Geraldton, after the 2020 event was postponed due to COVID-19.

Students from 11 high schools in Geraldton and the surrounding region have been invited to explore an exciting array of opportunities a career in STEM can offer by talking to people already working and studying in different STEM fields in their region and beyond, and experiencing directly related hands-on activities.

Kalien Selby, Scitech Chief Executive Officer said, “The STEM Festival Geraldton is an important event to show students the relevance and importance of pursuing a STEM career and the opportunities STEM skills and knowledge will open for them in the future.”

“Ramping up interactions with STEM professionals and demystifying STEM careers for high school students is a vital step to help elevate STEM discussions from possibility to that of an opportunity mindset, to positively influence their subject choices for years 11 and 12 and potential entry into university or TAFE,” she said.

The event partner, Central Regional TAFE, will be conducting a range of diverse activities to demonstrate how technology is used to enhance STEM careers from Automotive, Aquaculture, Conservation and Land Management to Electrotechnology, ICT, Education and Health Sciences.

Organisations travelling to the festival from Perth include the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science. They will be demonstrating how electrical activity in the brain can be used to control a mechanical device using a simple EEG system, with students encouraged to test it for themselves. They will also have a range of real and 3D-printed animal brains on display including sheep, sharks, rats, fat-tailed dunnarts, lizards and goldfish.

ChemCentre will also be visiting from Perth, with examples of PPE breathing apparatus to demonstrate the equipment needed to conduct their dangerous work safely and educate students on the range of chemical, biological and radioactive emergencies the Emergency Response Team attends.