

More information

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Local students get a taste of STEM opportunities at Science Café

More than 220 Year 10 students from around the state were invited to attend Science Café on Wednesday 25 August 2021.

The event, hosted by Scitech in partnership with the University of Western Australia, gives students the opportunity to network with STEM professionals and university students so they can gain practical knowledge about STEM pathways and career options.

Over morning tea, high school students were able to engage one-on-one with over 60 STEM representatives from universities, government and industry to get a deeper understanding of careers and pathways in areas such as cancer research, engineering, computer science and medicine.

In the afternoon, students had the opportunity to speak with STEM undergraduates to learn about university life and the various pathways into tertiary education.

The keynote speech was provided by Dr Paola Magni, a forensic entomologist and terrestrial and aquatic crime scene expert from Murdoch University. She encouraged students to “grow your knowledge, grow your experience and grow your network”, words that provided much inspiration to the room when she spoke of her journey into a science career.

Making the connection between studying STEM in school and potential careers was Year 10 student Hayden O’Heir from South Coast Baptist College.

“Today has helped me think about what I want to do in the long term for my job, but also what I want to do at Uni and what I want to do in school right now. It’s been a pretty successful day.”

Hayden’s STEM teacher, Sinead Terpis experienced the event for the first time and was equally inspired with the level of knowledge students were gaining.

“I have been really impressed with how today is as it’s so well organized. The people here and the calibre of people of STEM professionals. I think students are going to be so inspired and I am just blown away with the knowledge that they’re receiving. It makes me want to go back and do my post grad study so I can speak on topics like these people which is so impressive.”

Reflecting on the success of the day, Jae West, Scitech Coordinator says what STEM students and professionals gain from the day is truly invaluable.

“Science Café is a rare opportunity to learn from professionals firsthand both about the different opportunities that are out there and the different pathways that are accessible to students. It was such an inspiring day, seeing both the STEM professionals getting the opportunity to share their wisdom and knowledge and the seeing students excited for the future.”

Science Café was hosted by Scitech in partnership with the University of Western Australia and rounded off events as part of National Science Week in 2021.