June 12, 2012

WISEST founder, Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour named Distinguished Citizen

Edmonton--Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour's passion for science accompanied her from her birthplace in Scotland, where she worked as a research chemist, to her new home in Alberta. Currently the associate dean of science (diversity) at the University of Alberta, Margaret-Ann has eagerly communicated her love of science and the importance for young women to become involved in science- and engineering-related careers through her teaching and research as well as through her roles on boards promoting women in science.

Under the umbrella of the Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST) organization, Margaret-Ann has created a series of initiatives to encourage girls and young women to pursue careers in the sciences. In 2010, she became the founding president of the board of the Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology (WINSETT), and is a proud mentor and role model.

For her dedication to gender equality in the sciences, Margaret-Ann has received a number of recognitions, including the Order of Canada, the Governor General’s Award and the Alberta Science and Technology Leadership Awards Foundation’s Special Award. In addition, she was named Champion of Public Education by the Learning Partnership and twice named one of Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women.

Today, more than 50 per cent of undergraduate students enrolled in the sciences in universities across Canada are female, but Margaret-Ann’s commitment does not end there. In her current role at the University of Alberta, she has developed and implemented “Project Catalyst,” an initiative designed to increase the number of women in science and engineering faculty positions in post-secondary institutions.

An Honorary Bachelor of Arts degree will be conferred upon Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour during the Spring Convocation on Thursday, June 14 at 2:00 p.m., at the Winspear Centre.