

# FOREWORD

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## **Perspectives. It's always about perspectives.**

One of the many interesting facets of being involved in science and technology is that they are truly global undertakings. It is absolutely exciting – and humbling – to be part of a cosmopolitan community of scientists, engineers, technologists, medical professionals, writers, speakers, researchers and others who form the symphony of voices contributing to the world's storehouse of knowledge.

Our Foundation is part of the symphony. Our mission is to help students gain perspectives and insight into the working world of science and technology, to help shape career choices and direction, get a realistic view of the demands, challenges and expectations of a STEM-based career, and more.

With this in mind, it's important for our organization to fully encompass the nature of the real world. Over the past year we have embarked in some exciting new directions to underscore this point. Simply, we have been trying to add to our organizational perspectives to help you appreciate the broadest aspects of science, technology, engineering, innovation and more. Here are some examples of how we are changing our horizons.

Our Journal has historically received some 20% of its submissions from people outside of Canada and this amount is slowly increasing. In view of this, we will be introducing a new International section to the Journal to highlight the rich mix of student research and accomplishment that is taking place around the world. This will expose our readers to a broader range of research topics, insights, ingenuity, methods and more.

We announced that we will be launching a new publication that intends to inform, inspire and spark discussion aimed at encouraging women to pursue and sustain careers in science, technology and innovation. Codenamed *Project W*, it will accomplish this by helping young women establish and build peer networks of support, encouragement and information. It will also serve as a compendium of formal and informal scientific and social research, development programs, and other work in this area. Watch for this in 2019!

This summer, we have been part of a pilot project involving York University and the York Regional District School Board to design and test a co-op course on entrepreneurship. This is a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity for exceptional high school students. It is patterned after our highly successful co-op program that we operate on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Education. We are hoping to take the lessons we learn from the pilot project to shape a new entrepreneurship co-op that, with Ministry support, will become available province-wide.



Also related to our co-op, we have designed and successfully completed a pilot project aimed at providing co-op support for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We are about to enter negotiations with the Ministry to make this part of our overall co-op (you can read about the co-op on the first few pages of this Journal) with the hope of introducing it province-wide in just a few months.

Additionally, we recently signed an agreement with the Bavarian Research Alliance to undertake a joint project involving Canada and the European Commission. In essence, the European Commission is providing us with funding to highlight the work of the Foundation at various meetings across Europe in 2019 as a proven, successful model for career and workforce development. In turn, my German colleagues have designed a novel, interesting way to convey to high school students and teachers the central and important role of ethics in research. They will be coming to Canada to present this on our behalf and we will benefit from their international perspective. Again, watch for details!

One final note: beginning with this issue, regular readers will notice that we have refreshed the design and layout of the Journal and made other changes to make it even more professional, polished, and useful. Again, this is in keeping with the practices and norms of real world professional publishing. We are delighted with the new look and feel and hope that you are too. If you have any comments or queries, please send them to [info@fsst.ca](mailto:info@fsst.ca). We would love to hear your thoughts.



## Jacques Guerette

*Executive Director*

*Jacques Guerette has been the Executive Director of the Foundation for over two years and previously served on its Board of Directors. He is an accomplished senior executive adept at growing science, technology and engineering organizations with special emphasis on building ecosystems related to innovation, science, technology and research, locally and internationally. He has served in business, management, communications and marketing roles for organizations including Nortel Networks, Genome Canada, the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, and Mitel.*

