



## Geomatics Engineering NEWS RELEASE

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### Schulich Dean Cannon recognized for contributions to science and technology by the ASTech Foundation

Elizabeth Cannon, Dean of the University of Calgary's Schulich School of Engineering, has received the 2009 ASTech Award for ***Outstanding Contribution to the Alberta Science and Technology Community***, the highest award handed out by the ASTech Foundation. Cannon is known for her passion of encouraging young women to consider careers in science and engineering and finding creative ways to introduce girls to those professions.

The ASTech awards were handed out in Calgary on November 6 by the Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Foundation. The awards recognize the accomplishments of the top innovators in the province. "ASTech is committed to inspiring the next generation of innovation," said Martin Kratz, chair of the ASTech Foundation. "ASTech's celebration of the leaders who are making Alberta a better place makes our province more attractive for businesses and students to build their future here. That, in turn, improves our economy and quality of life".

Professor Cannon is part of the Position, Location and Navigation (PLAN) Group at the Schulich School of Engineering, and is known around the world for her expertise in Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) including GPS. She is a former NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering and a past recipient of the Minerva Mentoring Award from the Alberta Women's Science Network. Several years ago, she formed an email-based mentoring program that has reached thousands of students in Alberta and has evolved into the online community Cybermentor.ca.

Currently at the Schulich School of Engineering, 24 percent of undergraduate students are female, which is well above the national average of 17.5 percent. Every year, the school invites girls from junior and senior high schools to events such as Explore IT (Information Technology) and Women in Engineering Day with the hope of sparking an interest in the fields of science and engineering.

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