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Marching Forward in STEM: Celebrating Women's History and Innovation

Welcome to our March edition, where we embrace Women's History Month and the remarkable achievements of women in STEM. This month, we spotlight events such as World Engineering Day, International Women's Day, Pi Day, and Digital Learning Day. are also happening in March. These occasions serve not only to celebrate the historic contributions of women in engineering and sciences but also to inspire future generations to pursue their passions in these fields!

World Engineering Day: Shaping a Sustainable World

March 4th marks World Engineering Day, a global recognition of engineers' critical role in advancing sustainable development and modern civilization. This day emphasizes the importance of engineering in achieving a sustainable future and the need for inclusive participation across all demographics in engineering fields. World Engineering Day spotlights engineering solutions like the development of clean water technologies, which are crucial in addressing one of the most pressing global challenges: access to safe drinking water. For example, engineers have created affordable, portable water filtration systems that can transform contaminated water into safe drinking water without needing electricity or chemical treatments. These innovations not only improve health and quality of life in underserved communities but also demonstrate the power of engineering to create sustainable solutions for environmental challenges.



International Women's Day: Honoring Female Pioneers in STEM

Celebrated on **March 8th**, International Women's Day is a powerful occasion to recognize the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, including their groundbreaking contributions to STEM. This day calls for action to accelerate gender parity and celebrate the trailblazers the way for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

- **Marie Curie (1867 - 1934):** First woman to teach at the University of Paris. She is usually recognized along with her husband, Pierre Curie. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win two [Nobel prizes](#), and the only person to win it in two different fields: physics and chemistry, due to her work in radiation and the discovery of the elements radium and polonium.





- **Lise Meitner (1878 - 1968):** First woman to be a full-time professor of physics in Germany. She was nominated more than 40 times for the Nobel Prize in physics and chemistry. She studied [radioactive](#) elements and calculated the amount of energy released from what they discovered and later named nuclear fission reactions. A Nobel prize was awarded in recognition of this work, but exclusively to her research collaborator Otto Hahn.
- **Katherine Johnson (1918 - 2020):** With a mathematics degree, she was responsible for several orbital mechanics calculations that made US space flights possible. She was recognized with several honors during her life and career, including the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#). Once, she gained widespread recognition through the film "Hidden Figures," highlighting invaluable contributions to space exploration.
- **Rosalind Franklin (1920 - 1958):** Her work and contributions were critical to the discovery and [understanding](#) of the molecular structures of DNA, RNA, and others, which traced the path for Francis Crick, James Watson, and Maurice Wilkins to win the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1962 due to their work in nucleic acids.

Pi Day: A Celebration of Mathematics and Science

Pi Day, observed on **March 14th**, is a whimsical celebration of mathematics, specifically the mathematical constant π (pi). This day provides a fun opportunity to engage students and communities in math-related activities, highlighting the beauty and relevance of mathematics in engineering and technology. It's a perfect moment to inspire young minds with the wonders of math and its applications in solving real-world problems.

[Learn more about Pi Day here!](#)



Digital Learning Day: Embracing Technology in Education

On **March 15th**, Digital Learning Day celebrates innovative teaching and learning practices that effectively use technology to strengthen a student's learning experience. It underscores the importance of digital resources in education, particularly in STEM disciplines, and encourages educators to incorporate more technology-driven learning strategies.

Women's History Month: Celebrating STEM Achievements

Throughout March, Women's History Month offers a dedicated time to honor the contributions of women in STEM. It's an opportunity to showcase the achievements of women engineers, scientists, and mathematicians who have made significant impacts in their fields. Engage your community with stories of female pioneers in STEM and organize events or activities highlighting the importance of women's contributions to science and engineering.



- **Helen Beatrix Potter (1866 - 1943):** Unrecognized for her work in [mycology](#) during her life and generally overlooked by the male-dominated scientific community of Victorian London, Beatrix turned to art and story as an outlet for her creativity. As the first artist ever to patent and license a toy based on her work, she is credited as the inventor of character merchandising.



- **Hedy Lamarr (1914 - 2000):** Praised for her beauty and recognized for her work as a Hollywood actress, she co-invented a [radio guidance system](#) that used spread spectrum and frequency hopping technology to avoid radio jamming for the allies during WWII. This technology served as a path to modern technologies such as Wi-Fi.
- **Margaret Hamilton (1936):** A computer scientist and systems engineer, she is credited with coining the term “software engineering” to distinguish this discipline from the existing engineering areas. She was responsible as lead developer along with her team to write the software code for the [Apollo Projects](#) that landed humans on the moon.



WE Locals

WE Local conferences happen world-wide annually to connect participants in all stages of their careers and from various technical and non-technical backgrounds. WE Locals feature keynote speakers, professional breakout sessions, and networking events. This year, the 2024 WE Local will take place in five locations, including Las Vegas, Baltimore, Wichita, Bengaluru, and Munich, from late February to late April. Register now on the [WE Local website](#)!

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