



*Karla Hopp, P.Eng.
Association of Professional Engineers
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Master's in Physics
University of Saskatchewan*

CCPE - MELOCHE MONNEX SCHOLARSHIPS

The CCPE-Meloche Monnex scholarship recipient Karla Hopp, P.Eng., member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan, brings the challenge of harnessing energy to a new level.

Karla's interest in physics was nurtured early on by a high school teacher who was a mechanical engineer and very passionate about the matter. His example sparked an interest in Karla early on in her career.

Driven to understand the fundamentals of underlying scientific and engineering theories, Karla enrolled at McGill University and earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Degree in hand, Karla first applied her skills and knowledge to very tangible, and sometimes dangerous situations. In the late 1990s, Karla traveled to Kuwait to embark on a fascinating project marked by the collaboration of scientists and engineers. She was involved in a multi-million dollar project for the United Nations, assessing both environmental and human damage from the First Gulf War. Her role was operating computer software that handled environmental data to collect water and soil samplings.

Karla says she "derives great satisfaction from seeing new technologies implemented, and has an especially strong interest in understanding the physics behind a new technology."

Currently enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan, where she is earning her master's degree in physics, Karla's thesis focuses on the study of dark matter and ultra-high energy cosmic rays -- the highest energy particle currently known to man.

She is confident that her discoveries will lead to great advances and better accuracy in science; ultimately enhancing Canadian scientific developments. She also believes that developments related to ultra-high energy cosmic rays may have important implications, well beyond astrophysics.

After the completion of her master's, Karla intends to pursue her PhD studies. Then, she'd like to apply the knowledge she has from her professional and academic career to further Canada's technology industry by creating an association of engineers and scientists whose mission is to bridge the gap between new discoveries in physics and their implementation.

