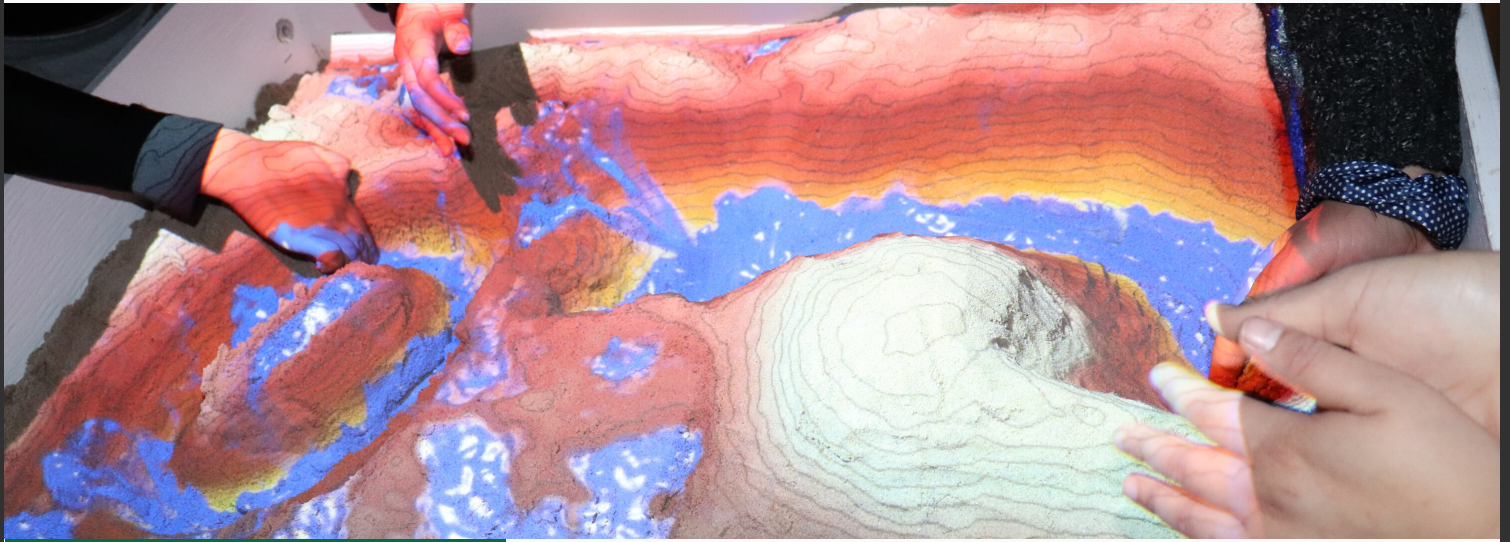


MAY 2020

MENTORSTEP YEAR IN REVIEW

The Latest News from MentorSTEP!



MentorSTEP in the time of Covid-19

Stay safe, wash your
hands!



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

We Miss You!

Text & Photos by Merle Massie

I miss the MentorSTEP crew! I'm sorry that it's taken so long to connect back -- this Covid-19 crisis is upending our world in so many ways.

I'm sending big hugs out to all of our MentorSTEP students and mentors -- it's a scary time, and I'm hopeful that you and all of your family are safe. Our hearts are particularly scared for relatives and friends in the La Loche region, where the outbreak is hitting so hard.

I thought I would create and send along a bit of an overview of the many events that we held this year, to give you all a reminder of the great time that we've had, the learning, friendships and connections.

So take a tour through this newsletter and see our MentorSTEP year in review!

Launch and Rock Lab

We had a tremendous response from mentors to attend our launch and Rock Lab, hosted by Donna Beneteau in the Geology Building. (It wasn't great timing on my part: our university students were in the middle of midterms, and not all of our high school students could make it!) But we had lots of fun, and most of us got to take home a fantastic homemade rock coaster made by Donna Beneteau. What an amazing gift!



MentorSTEP history

Did you know how MentorSTEP came to be? I'll give you a really quick background history.

In 2018, the International Minerals Innovation Institute (iMii) opened a call for projects and ideas that responded to and addressed issues of equity and diversity in mining.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council, along with partners the University of Saskatchewan, put their heads together and came up with the idea for MentorSTEP. The folks over at iMii thought it was a great idea, and awarded it funding for a two-year pilot.

We worked hard throughout summer 2019 to think through what it could look like, and in fall 2019, MentorSTEP was launched at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre on campus, followed by our first event, the rock lab.

Since then, MentorSTEP hosted or was invited to join four more events: the Virtual Reality Mine Tour hosted by K+S Potash, the Industry Possibilities tour sponsored by Girls in the Classroom and held at Sask Polytech, the Diamond Lab tour at the Saskatchewan Research Council, and the .caISES National Gathering at the University of Saskatchewan, where we toured the Canadian Light Source.

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Sounds fun and exciting, can't wait to see everyone!

MentorSTEP
chaperone Pam
Peekekoot



Virtual Reality with K+S Potash

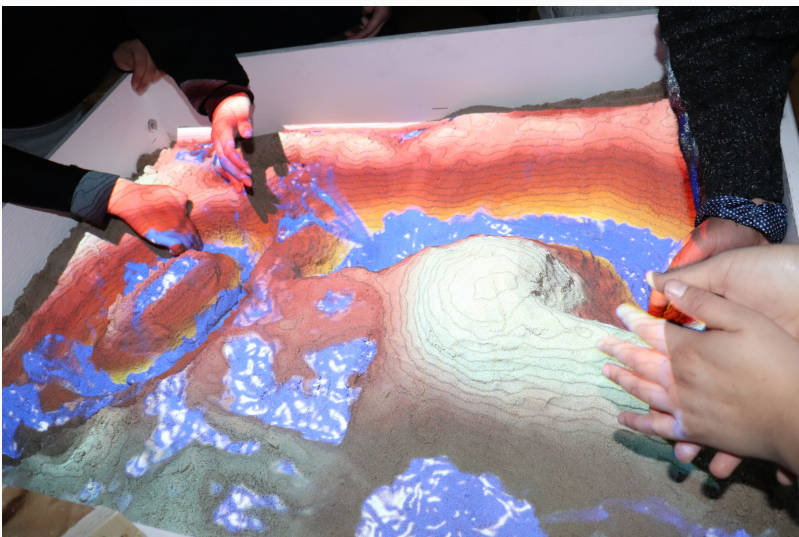
In November, we took a trip downtown to the home of K+S Potash, where we were treated to a Virtual Reality tour of their mining operations! Some of us (like me) opted to watch, as girls took great leaps off of tall buildings and down mineshafts!

Yeah -- Merle
didn't do that one.
But I loved
watching!



Sask Polytech visit with Girls in the Classroom

In December, we had our largest student crew yet come to SaskPolytech to see the amazing hands-on training labs. The two favourites were the Sandbox Lab and the 3D Printing lab! Big thanks to Deb Shewfelt, leader of the Girls in the Classroom iMii initiative, for inviting the MentorSTEP crew to tag along!





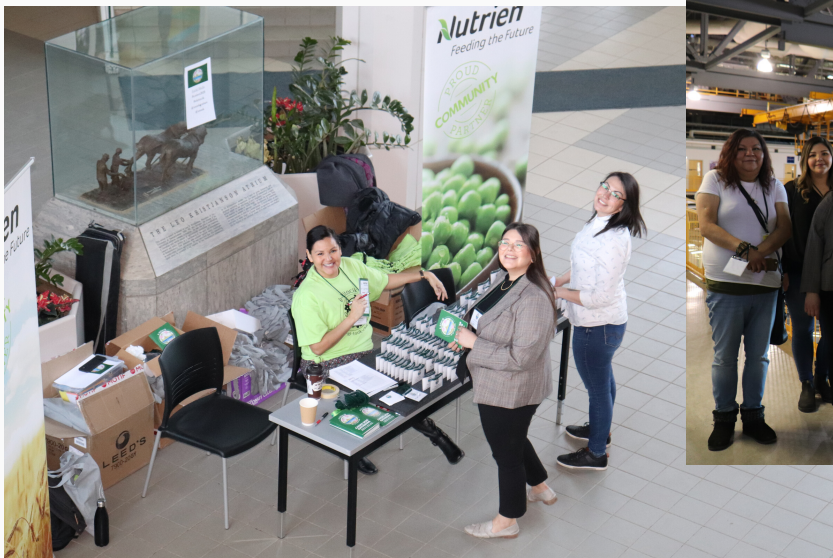
Diamonds everywhere: visit to SRC Diamond Lab

As soon as January hit, we were warmly welcomed to Saskatchewan Research Council's provincial Diamond Lab, where our Saskatchewan kimberlite is tested for its diamond quality and quantity. Such a fascinating tour of an amazing -- and hidden -- Saskatchewan 'gem.'



The National Gathering for .caISES at USask

The MentorSTEP high school crew came to Saskatoon for the National Gathering of .caISES (Canadian Indigenous Science and Engineering Society) held at USask, while the university MentorSTEP crew was hard at work on the planning, steering, execution and leadership committees! Lots of workshops, speakers and a visit to the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron.



BHP

Jansen Mine visit postponed due to Covid-19

We were just two weeks away from our April 2nd 2020 visit to the Jansen Mine site when the Covid-19 crisis hit Saskatchewan. Public health issued a stay-at-home order, and schools across the province closed. But we'll hope to revisit this plan in the future! (NOTE: we are NOT going down this!)

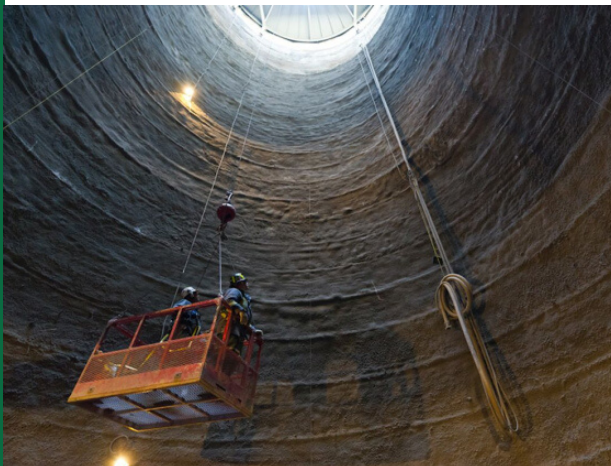


Image: Chris Hendrickson, Postmedia.

Summer Research Internships 2020

MentorSTEP is supporting seven university students for summer research assistantships in 2020. They have positions in diverse scientific fields, from environmental consulting to engineering to geology, to environmental science, kinesiology and with the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron!



MentorSTEP

**We Want
to Hear
from
You!**



How was your year? What did you enjoy? What should we change? What would you like to see?

Please fill out our survey to give us your thoughts!

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/MentorSTEPsurvey>

Or, take a picture of this QR code with your phone to go to the survey!