



COREEN MELBY

LABORATORY SUPERVISOR
NUTRIEN – CORY POTASH MINE



QUICK FACTS

Coreen is a laboratory supervisor with Nutrien at the Cory Potash Mine. As an alumnus of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic chemical technology program. Her responsibilities include supervising the analytical lab in the mill (metallurgical, process control, quality control), as well as operational responsibility. Her department provides process operability support and performs work in the scope of QC/QA, R&D, environmental monitoring and industrial hygiene on surface.

Coreen trailblazed new ground as a female lab and operations surface employee while working at various potash facilities in the province. As the only female employee at that time in a non-traditional role on surface when she began her position at Cory in 2008, Coreen is proud that facilities have gradually started hiring more women into these roles. The Girls In The Classroom project was fortunate to have Coreen share her experiences in potash mining at the following event:

Event: Trades & Technology Exploration Event

Mine Cycle Stage: Discover, Plan, Mine and Reclaim

Dates: December 12, 2019

School: Various

Grade Level: 8 - 12

Curriculum Connection: Career Pathing

Lesson Plan: www.girlsintheclassroom.org

Q&A WITH COREEN

Why did you want to be a part of the "Girls in the Classroom – Unearthing Career Opportunities in Mining" project?

The best word to describe my desire to participate is awareness. The possibilities are endless, and the world truly is our oyster. Fully understanding one's personal drive and interests can take time with some searching involved. It can be confusing for youth to fully understand what career paths are available, the breadth of those career paths, how their interests may align in planning a future career, or simply what their interests are. The more information and options we can provide young people, the better equipped they will be to make choices in constructing their future.

From your perspective, what was the most meaningful information that you shared with the class?

Nutrien's mine and mill tour video provided a glimpse into the world of potash showcasing our modern equipment & technology, processing facility and safety culture. Mining, milling and shipping high quality potash requires diverse training and skills with career opportunities ranging from administration to operations to tradespersons to STEM. This was an example of how industrial operations can provide diverse career options.

I had some small interactions and conversations with some of the students, but no large interactions compared to the presenters (which were very good by the way). One small interaction was with a girl who held near the back of the group because she said she was nervous and anxious in big groups and had asked how I felt about public speaking. We talked about how "normal" it was to be nervous speaking in front of a group, and that everyone was nervous whether they showed it or not. We talked about some techniques to help reduce the body's natural response when we get nervous.

How does the project benefit the various stakeholders (teachers, student, industry reps/company and industry as a whole)?

These events promote our industry. We may be encouraging and shaping our future employees, coworkers and leaders as we continue to support and work towards a diverse workforce.