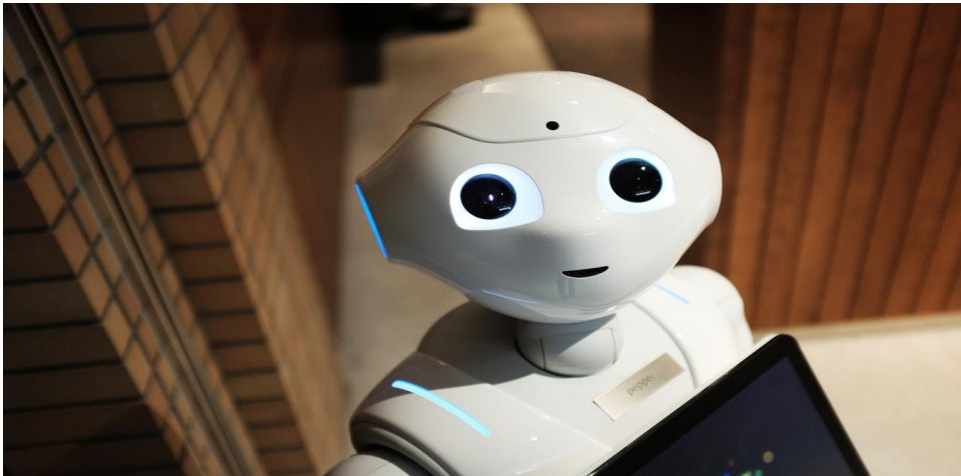## Students Explore Technology Jobs of the Future

On March 12 a thousand students from across the province descended upon the Vancouver Conference Centre for #BCTECH Summit's 4th Annual Youth Innovation Day and a taste of what's possible for a career in the technology sector.

Youth Innovation Day 2019 offered Grades 10 to 12 students from across B.C. an opportunity to discover the wide range of education, training and career prospects in BC's tech sector. Students heard from inspiring speakers, connected with top business and tech leaders, tried out the latest tech and gathered practical information from post-secondary institutions and other education partners.

Rafie Relova is a Computer Science teacher at Rutland Senior Secondary School and has been bringing students to Youth Innovation Day since it began four years ago. Relova sees Youth Innovation Day as a unique opportunity for students to learn more about the thriving technology industry all in one venue.

"As educators, we need to provide students with opportunities to connect with post-secondary institutions as future students and with company representatives as future employees and/or consumers. It is important for them to participate in hands-on workshops of their choice, check out the latest technology in the marketplace, and interact with inspirational youth speakers. They need to experience being part of it all and get them excited so they can see the possibility of leading a successful career in the BC technology industry."

Natasha Miles is a Grade 12 student who plans to go into the Computer Information Systems at Okanagan College, then transfer to Computer Engineering or Science at UBC Vancouver or SFU. Like her teacher, Relova, Natasha thoroughly enjoyed her experience at this year's Youth Innovation Day. "The businesses in the market place were very open about questions in their line of work and were eager to talk about possible opportunities," she said. "The post-secondary representatives also helped many students figure out what path best suits them in the future." Miles especially enjoyed the hands-on activities that were available for students to try out. "One of my main highlights was the build-a-thon; during it we learned about how easy it is to make modifications to everyday items to help others that struggle using them."

Student Innovation Challenge

Youth Innovation Day provided students with an opportunity to dig deeper into the technologies and careers of the future. And for five especially bright young men and women, it was a chance to participate in a new event called the Reality Revolution Solution Pitch. Each student was given two minutes to pitch their potential solution to a problem impacting communities across B.C and beyond. Congratulations to all five participants, including Ray Liu, the overall winner and recipient of a $5,000 cash prize to help fund his project. Check out all the students' pitches on the Youth Day Innovation site at https://www.bctechsummit.ca/page/1375569/youth-innovation-day.

"My students look forward to Youth Innovation Day every year," says Relova, and with things like the Reality Revolution Solution Pitch, hands-on exhibits and a chance to connect with future employers in the tech industry it's easy to see why. Youth Innovation Day will be back again next year, so mark your calendars!

Learn More

> **BC's Applied Design, Skills and Technologies** is part of the Ministry of Education's core curriculum. It builds on a student's natural curiosity, inventiveness, and desire to create and work in practical ways. The field of Technology Education harnesses the power of the design process to promote learning by doing and provides challenging, fun activities that inspire students to dig deeper, work with big ideas and adapt to a changing world.

> **#BCTECH Summit** is Western Canada's largest annual innovation event, showcasing British Columbia's vibrant technology industry, building cross-sector and cross-border opportunities for businesses, and exploring the latest ideas and innovations.

> **Innovate BC** is a Crown Agency of the Province of British Columbia and funds entrepreneurial support programs in the province.

> **Science Fair Foundation** is the largest volunteer science outreach network in the province supporting science and technology education.