WELCOME MEERL’20!

In August 2018, we had 9 new students join our program. These students live in Ontario, Alberta, BC, United States, and South America. They are scientists and engineers, project managers, directors, and vice presidents. They work for provincial governments, consulting firms, and private and public companies on a variety of projects including pipelines, mine exploration and financing, coal research, economic development and policy, and more.

MEERL’20’s first week was on the Queen’s University Campus in Kingston, Ontario before starting courses online. We held leadership workshops including how to manage dilemmas, learning about your own working preferences and your barriers to innovation. We also started learning about the resource lifecycle which led us to visit the Canadian Wollasonite Mine and how research projects and partnerships with universities have opened new markets for their products.

Here’s what MEERL’20 had to say:

“MEERL is more than just a Master’s, it’s a project we as students have the honour to take part of. I’m so impressed how motivated (everyone is).”

“Overall, I am incredibly impressed with the residential week, the faculty, and the overall program. This week has given me an impression that Queen’s University is full of highly competent and engaged faculty, and that it is willing to demonstrate leadership and innovation in having created this program.”

“I feel that this program is absolutely the right fit for me, and that I have both a lot to learn from the diversity of students as well as things to offer”
MEERL’19 IN ALBERTA AND BC

In August 2019, Professor Jean Hutchinson and 8 students embarked on the elective field trip course, EERL 810. They travelled over 2000 km in 7 days - travelling from Calgary, via Revelstoke, as far west as Kamloops and Spences Bridge, returning to Calgary via Osoyoos and Crownsnest Pass. Over the trip, they traversed numerous geological sequences, expertly guided by Paul MacKay and Malcolm Lamb of Shale Petroleum. This gave students an enhanced understanding of the geological setting for the mineral and energy resources in Alberta and BC.

Site visits were provided by BC Hydro at Revelstoke Dam, NewGold at New Afton Mine, KGHM at Ajax Mine, Teck at Highland Valley Copper, and Riversdale Resources at the proposed Grassy Mountain mine site. Students learned about hydro power, gold mining, coal mining, oil and gas settings, from exploration through to extraction and from waste management through to closure. Hearing from experienced personnel provided an unparalleled opportunity for students to observe and think about the science, engineering and societal issues at each site.

The sites, which were at various stages (proposal, operations, and care and maintenance), permitted us to explore the resource cycle from start to finish. A big thank you to the companies who provided site visits.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR MEERL

Our first cohort, MEERL’19, will be graduating in May 2019. They have already received job promotions during the program, from Chief Mine Geologist to Vice President Business Development, and Stakeholder Relations Specialist to Senior Director of Policy. We can’t wait to see where they go next.

“Natural resource development is an increasingly complex activity, and it’s impossible to know everything. MEERL gives you an understanding of the critical issues at play, and the tools to seek out subject matter experts and be able to ask them the right questions.” – MEERL’19 Student

“Canada’s energy sector faces enormous challenges, and great opportunities in the years ahead; I feel confident that this program has equipped me with the ability to contribute to the future of our sector” – MEERL’19 Student

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Students will be looking for project topics in summer 2019. Projects span over a year and are a great opportunity to learn what our students have to offer. If you have a project idea, email MEERL@queensu.ca. We are also looking for guest lecturers, panel presenters, and site visits for EERL 810.

If you know someone who would be a great student for MEERL, encourage them to reach out to us or sign up for one of our events at www.queensu.ca/earthenenergyleadership/information-webinars-events