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Scitech's STEM Careers Show a Pathway to Future Workforce

Scitech will present a brand new STEM careers show, Beyond the Beaker, to five secondary high schools in the Wheatbelt from 23 – 26 July. This program is made possible by Scitech's long-standing partnership with Chevron, and tours regularly to different parts of the state, inspiring Western Australian secondary students about their STEM enabled future.

This tour will encompass Boddington District High School, Lake Grace District High School, Corrigin District High School, Brookton District High School and York District High School. Over 250 students will take part in the program that addresses the importance of STEM education and skills for career prospects.

Ms Deb Hancock, Scitech Chief Executive Officer said: "The future of work is changing. A new workforce is taking shape with 75% of the fastest growing jobs requiring STEM skills. We need to ensure that Western Australians are prepared for these changes, which is why programs such as Beyond the Beaker are immensely important for secondary students transitioning into the workforce of tomorrow. Through relevant, engaging and hands-on programs, Scitech can demonstrate first hand vital STEM skills, how they apply and why students will need them as they consider their career pathway."

Beyond the Beaker covers the topics of cutting edge technology (such as self-driving cars and life-saving drones), big data and artificial intelligence. It demonstrates how STEM can be a part of so many career avenues, from health and sports, to automation and the arts.

Hands-on demonstrations include a teacher vs. student texting competition using a blank smartphone keyboard, highlighting the difference between generational tech abilities. Students experiment with drawing on an iPad, while an AI program attempts to guess what they are creating before they finish. 3D printed articulated prosthetic hands are demonstrated to highlight the cutting edge technologies that already have so many practical uses as our world changes and progresses.

The program is underpinned by the concept of 21st century skills, core competencies that have been identified as necessary for almost any future career option. These skills are defined as creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving and are inherent in STEM learning.

Secondary school students and younger are already renowned as 'digital natives', and Beyond the Beaker encourages students to embrace these skills and knowledge to carry them into interesting and varied career paths and jobs, as well as supporting them in a distinctly STEM enabled future.