



A Letter from Our Founder

Growing up, I learned the value of hard work and determination through watching my mother build an auto parts business in a male-dominated industry. Her presence challenged the status quo and she had to work exceptionally hard for acceptance.

Today, while gender bias still exists, there are additional factors that prevent students from entering industries underrepresented by women. In 2014, Build a Dream identified a need to provide young women with the tools required to explore *all* career opportunities available to them. But beyond providing mentors and dispelling myths about male-dominated careers, the organization realized that engaging young women *with* their parents -- the number one career influencer -- was imperative to future success.

Build a Dream brings industry, education, government, *and* parents together for important discussions about the future. These conversations are integral parts of the organization's mission to empower young women to pursue careers in skilled trades, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), emergency response, entrepreneurship, politics and leadership.

Over the past five years, Build a Dream has engaged 7,000 parents and their daughters by providing information on exciting career opportunities. It is time to take this success beyond the province and across the country.

The Build a Dream movement is working on closing the gender gap and building future leaders, but we cannot accomplish these goals in isolation. We look to you as partners in the development of a diverse and inclusive workforce that ensures success for everyone.

Join us as we challenge the status quo.

Nour Hachem-Fawaz

Founder/President

Build a Dream