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MEDIA RELEASE

University of Toronto, Actua and Google Canada present third annual GO NORTH YOUTH: Inspiring Future Innovators

Toronto, ON, June 5, 2018/ Today, Actua's network member Engineering Outreach at the University of Toronto welcomed more than 1,100 Ontario students in Grades 3 to 8 to campus for the third annual *Go North Youth*. The largest event of its kind, *Go North Youth* features a full day of hands-on activities, workshops and learning designed to build skills and confidence in science, engineering and technology.

The event, run by U of T Engineering in partnership with Google Canada and Actua, began with a multi-sector roundtable on preparing youth for the future of work. Participants in the roundtable included representatives from Actua, Google Canada, the University of Toronto's Faculty of Engineering, RBC, Shopify, GE Canada, Lockheed Martin Canada as well as Mary Ng, Member of Parliament for Markham-Thornhill and The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Minister for Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

"Today's roundtable was an important opportunity to bring multi-sector voices to the table to discuss what is being done, and what needs to be done, to prepare Canadian youth for the future of work," said Jennifer Flanagan, President and CEO of Actua. "It is critical that we are aligned in equipping youth with the skills and knowledge needed in science, technology, engineering and math to be the drivers of our innovation based economy. That is exactly what Go North Youth is all about, inspiring the next generation of innovators."

After the roundtable, students gathered in Convocation hall for the event's Opening Ceremony with special performances from DJ Skratch and Toronto's Action Potential Lab. Minister Duncan also delivered a special address to the large audience.

"When today's youth choose science and research, they are choosing to make a difference in the world." said Minister Duncan. "Their passion for science will lead them to make the discoveries and innovations that pave the way to new knowledge, more job opportunities and a stronger, more prosperous middle class."

After the opening ceremonies, students toured *Innovate Alley*, where they tried out everything from building their own 3D printed creations with Inksmith, testing Google's new AI game Quick Draw, to dancing to rhythmic light installations from U of T startup, Nanoleaf. They finished off the day participating in hands-on "future cities" design and build workshops led by U of T engineering students.

"Today's students will be the ones to design and build the technologies that will define our future," says Dawn Britton, director of outreach for U of T Engineering. "We want to show all aspiring engineers that they have the power to start building, making and creating their own inventions right now."

"We're thrilled to invest in Canada's future innovators by participating in Go North Youth for the third year in a row. Ninety-eight percent of Google engineers had some level of exposure to computer science and technology before entering university. Events like today will help Canadian children understand that computer science is not simply the language of ones and zeros. It's the language of creativity,

entrepreneurship and Canada's future potential," said Sabrina Geremia, Country Director, Google Canada.

About Actua: Actua is Canada's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) youth outreach network representing 35 university and college based members. Each year 250,000 young Canadians in over 500 communities nationwide are inspired through hands-on educational workshops, camps and community outreach initiatives. Actua focuses on the engagement of underrepresented youth through specialized programs for Indigenous youth, girls and young women, at-risk youth and youth living in Northern and remote communities. Actua's major funders include: Government of Canada, Google Canada, Suncor Energy Foundation, GE Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Finning, Toyota Canada Foundation and Lockheed Martin. For more information about Actua, visit actua.ca.

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