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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Ontario Trillium Foundation representative visit STEM workshop for underserved youth held by funding recipients Actua and Western Engineering Outreach in London**

**London, Ontario, February 15, 2018/** Today, Rob McCullough, a member of Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) Board of Directors visited Actua network member Western Engineering Outreach from Western University's hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workshop at the Boys and Girls Club of London. The event was held in recognition of OTF's support of Actua's Go Where Kids Are Program, an initiative that builds resilience and economic independence among 10,000 socio-economically disadvantaged Ontario youth, including 600 youth throughout London. In 2015, OTF gave the group a three-year, \$650,000 Grow grant to help expand the program in different communities across Ontario.

"Thanks to Actua, Western University and the Boys and Girls Club for the great work you are doing to help youth in our community thrive in a technology-driven world. I'm proud that our government is investing to ensure youth facing barriers will not be left behind," said Deb Matthews, MPP London North Centre.

Today's event showcased the STEM outreach work that OTF's support has enabled in London over 13 years.

"Through the delivery of summer day camps, weekly drop-in science and engineering clubs and consulting on new projects related to STEM, our partnership has resulted in providing at-risk youth the opportunity to participate in confidence and skill-building transformative STEM programs that they would likely not have access to," said Joanne Moinz, Director of Western Engineering Outreach at Western University. "We are extremely grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for this important investment in engaging underserved youth in life-changing STEM programming."

"This investment by OTF in Actua's Go Where Kids Are program helps meet and exceed our objectives to meaningfully engage Ontario's underserved youth in experiences that help build critical skills and confidence in STEM," said Jennifer Flanagan, CEO of Actua. "It also helps Actua's network members like Western Engineering Outreach build long-term relationships with youth-serving community organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club of London, and to connect youth with university-aged mentors who can help them see themselves as STEM undergraduates in the future."

**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](http://actua.ca).

**About the Ontario Trillium Foundation:** An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136

million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca)

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