X-CHEM OUTREACH ENTERS INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH GOOGLE

X-Chem Outreach is getting a boost from Google to will help fund the summer science camps which will offer two Codemaker camps at StFX, as well as increase the computer science at all StFX camps. The funding comes through Actua, an organization which provides training, resources and support to its national network of members located at universities and colleges across Canada in the delivery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education outreach programming. One type of Codemaker camp will help children to learn to use technology to let out their creative side by exploring the basics of picture and video filming and editing, basic circuitry, and creating computer games. The second type of Codemaker camp will focus on programming, with campers learning how computers are used to solve problems and how to create new technologies themselves. Students will look at a few common programming languages, some game making, and creating websites. X-Chem is one of a few summer camps in the province that teaches computer coding. This year X-Chem is incorporating a Codemaker Day into all camps, as well as having two dedicated Codemaker camps. Next week will be the first Codemaker camp of the summer. "All X-Chem participants will get a chance to experience coding," says StFX chemistry professor and X-Chem founder **Dr. Truis Smith-Palmer.** Students will experience, not only coding on the computer but take part in hands-on experiments that help children learn about coding. "Students will use 'Makey Makey' kits with which they interface all sorts of everyday objects with a computer," added Dr. Smith-Palmer. Younger students will make things such as conductive play dough. These activities are in line with the province's Education Action Plan and ACTUA, which supports X-Chem and inspires youth through digital literacy and computer science. Last fall, the province stated that coding, an initiative in Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education, is an essential skill which promotes problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation. X-Chem is a multifaceted outreach program with over 20 years of experience engaging youth in science. The goal is to inspire curiosity in youth and stimulate an interest in science. X-Chem provides children with an opportunity to do hands-on science and to connect children to working scientists.