Transcript of Mary McLaren, Project Manager

The coolest thing about my job is… I get to create systems that help make people's live better!

I work as a project manager within information technology, or IT. I manage projects that deliver software solutions.

Project managers within IT would work on software development which is for websites or software that you may use just on a stand-alone computer. We also manage third-party software which we would customize. Currently I'm working on a project with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education and I'm managing the software development and delivery portion of that project. So that means that I have a team of eight functional analysts who design that system and eight developers who actually create that system through software programming, and as well, I have a tester on my team. My role is to lead and manage those people, as well, to make sure that all of the pieces are flowing; so from a schedule, budget, resourcing perspective that everything that we planned to do we are actually doing.

Project management is something that you can do in a lot of different fields within science and technology, it doesn't just have to be information technology. The future looks excellent because there will always be projects, there will always be IT, there will always be software to develop and build and I think it's going to get more interesting as we go through. You know, the computers that we use now are going to look very different from the computers are going to look like 10 years, 15 years, so there's lots and lots of opportunity.

My advice for you is to not limit yourself in your career and not let other people limit what you can do. When I was young I was told that girls couldn't be pilots, so I became one. Currently I'm in IT, but I think the career opportunities are limitless; and there's always options out there, and life will find you.