

# WOMEN IN STEM

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**DONNA STRICKLAND**

**An Eye for Lasers**

Donna Strickland's work with lasers, specifically her invention of chirped pulse amplification, paved the way toward the shortest and most intense laser pulses. The work shows how high-intensity light interacts with matter, and the technique is used in the machining of glass and some eye surgeries.

Ingenium is committed to recognizing and empowering women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math. Learn more at: [ingeniumcanada.org/womeninstem/](http://ingeniumcanada.org/womeninstem/)

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## CONCEPTS AND CONNECTIONS

The world celebrated in 2018 when **Dr. Donna Strickland** became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in Physics in over 50 years. In fact, women comprise fewer than 4% of all Nobel Prize winners in the sciences ([nobelprize.org](http://nobelprize.org)).

### Did you know?

The phenomenon of not recognizing women in science for their contributions is known as the Matilda Effect\*.

Grades 4-6	Grades 6-8	Grades 9+
<p><b>Recognition of Success:</b> Often, women in STEM are not recognized for their accomplishments. This does not mean they are not participating in science.</p> <p>What is it like to go unrecognized for your work?</p>	<p><b>Recognition of Success:</b> Often, women in STEM are not recognized for their accomplishments. This does not mean they are not participating in science.</p> <p>What social and other factors lead to women not being recognized for their accomplishments?</p>	<p><b>Recognition of Success:</b> Often, women in STEM are not recognized for their accomplishments. This does not mean they are not participating in science.</p> <p>What social and other factors lead to women not being recognized for their accomplishments?</p> <p>In what ways can systems and policies be structured to ensure that women are better represented and recognized for their contributions in STEM?</p>

### \* References:

Lincoln, A. E., Pincus, S., Koster, J. B., & Leboy, P. S. (2012). The Matilda Effect in science: Awards and prizes in the US, 1990s and 2000s. *Social studies of Science*, 42(2), 307-320.