

SWE Memphis Newsletter

Society of Women Engineers Memphis Professional Section

Special points of interest:

- The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is the world's largest advocate for all women in engineering and technology.
- The Society of Women Engineers inspires women to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders.
- SWE Memphis serves professional Society members in the greater Memphis metropolitan area.

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Top News

The Society of Women Engineers awarded a charter to a newly formed Memphis professional section in April of this year.

The Memphis area has long been ripe to benefit from a SWE professional section given the diversity of engineering employers in the region and the distinction of having the highest proportion of women in STEM roles amongst major cities in the U.S. (according to smartasset.com).

To earn the charter, SWE members in the Memphis area had to demonstrate that they could grow the area membership, which they did by 130% in a little over a year, and become active fulfilling the SWE mis-

sion. From February 2015 through March 2016 area SWE members conducted or participated in twenty events related to STEM outreach, member professional development and collegiate member engagement.

The newly formed SWE Memphis professional section will provide women in the area with vital opportunities to aspire, advance and achieve their personal and professional goals, and to inspire future generations of STEM talent.

Not already a SWE member? Join us today by visiting www.swe.org/membership



SWE Memphis received its charter in April 2016.

SWE Memphis Leadership Team Named

The newly formed SWE Memphis professional section has named its leadership team for the new fiscal year.

The Leadership Team members represent eight area engineering firms including Christian Brothers University, DuPont,

FedEx, Medtronic, Smith and Nephew, Smith Seckman Reid, University of Memphis and Wright Medical,

The Leadership Team has three focus areas: member Professional Development (including networking), K-12 STEM Out-

reach and support for area collegiate SWE sections.

See who is on the Leadership Team by visiting our webpage: <http://memphis.swe.org/leadership-team>

Inspiring Girls to Change the World through STEM Careers



By connecting with a role model, the aspirations of a young girl become real, concrete and achievable.

Heather Savage Erickson and team of SWE Memphis partnered with the Techbridge organization to provide training to STEM outreach volunteers on how to inspire girls to change the world through STEM careers.

Techbridge is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 with a mission to “inspire girls in science, technology, and engineering”. The organization has conducted quite a bit of research (funded by a National Science Foundation grant) and

developed tools specifically for mentoring.

The event on January 21, 2016 at Metronic attracted over fifty area professionals with an interest in being stronger role models for girls considering STEM careers. Attendees included robotics program mentors, STEM Student Ambassadors from the West Tennessee STEM Hub and SWE Memphis members with a general interest in K-12 STEM outreach.

During the event Megan Davis,

Techbridge Program Manager, explained what it means to be a mentor, and shared tips and tricks on how to make a lasting impact.

Learn more about how you can be a better STEM career role model by visiting the Techbridge.org website and viewing the content on “Role Model Training and Resources”:

<http://www.techbridgegirls.org/index.php?id=29>

Strategic Communications: How to say the right thing

“Strategic communication is at the core of effective leadership.”

—Reed Markham,
Phd

When you get your big chance with management, do you ever wonder if you said the right thing? Did you say too much, too little?

SWE Memphis hosted a “Strategic Communications” workshop on March 3, 2016. The speakers, both from Medtronic, were Shannon Vittur, Senior Program Manager, and Sharon Rozzi, Senior Operations

Director,

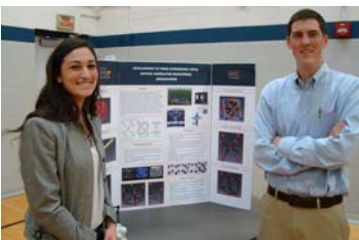
Attendees learned a communications framework to adapt messaging and communication style to an audience to seamlessly transition from a hallway conversation with peers to a big presentation in the boardroom.

The session addressed skills related to situational leadership and communication styles to help participants manage their

strengths to be confident and impactful in any conversation.

This professional development session is an example of how SWE Memphis is making content from the SWE Annual Conference accessible to local area members.

Collegiate Engineering Expo! showcases student work



The SWE Collegiate Engineering Expo! gave students an opportunity to be recognized for their engineering research and design projects.

The first annual SWE Memphis Collegiate Engineering Expo! was held on April 15, 2016 at the University of Memphis under the leadership of Lauren Harrett. The event was a poster presentation competition for collegiate students to showcase their engineering research and design projects to a panel of experienced engineering profes-

sionals from area companies.

Twenty-three area students from Christian Brothers University, University of Memphis, University of Tennessee Health Science Center and University of Tennessee Martin submitted their research or engineering design projects to the competition.

Engineering professionals from CSA Structures, DuPont, FedEx, Medtronic, Memphis Reprographics, Smith Seckman Reid and the University of Memphis participated as event volunteers and judges.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to participate in the next SWE Collegiate Engineering Expo! In April 2017.

Middle School Robotics Program inspiring next generation Engineers

The Memphis Middle School Mindstorm Competition began in 2014 as an outreach event to promote STEM engagement by a handful of SWE members at Medtronic. The format is simple and relatively low cost: provide a Lego Mindstorm EV3 kit, a competition format and a STEM mentor.

The results have been overwhelming. What started with a group of three teams in 2014 grew by 2016 to 28 teams, 150 students and 60 mentors/ volunteers from 8 area organi-

zations..

The program objectives are the following:

- Provide role models to students to expose them to the diversity of STEM professionals and career opportunities
- Provide a format for students to be successful at a STEM activity
- Make the competition free to enable and encourage participation for everyone

Special thanks are due to teachers, parents, and volunteers and mentors from these area organizations: Brunner Printing, Kiewit, Medtronic, Wright Medical, Shelby County Schools, Smith and Nephew, Thyssenkrupp, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Interested in participating as a program mentor, volunteer and/ or sponsor in 2017? Visit www.swememphisrobotics.com



One-hundred fifty area middle school students participated in the SWE Memphis Middle School Robotics Program in 2016.

Engineers share advice on transitioning from College to Career

Since its inception SWE Memphis has had a strong partnership with the SWE collegiate sections at Christian Brothers University and the University of Memphis. Through this partnership we fulfill our mission of inspiring women at all stages of their careers and lives to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders.

On April 5, 2016 a panel of

SWE Memphis members shared their wisdom on transitioning from college to career with graduating engineering students at the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University.

The panel discussed issues concerning the workplace generation gap, transition advice, and balancing social and work life. Panelists were profession-

al engineers from various companies including Dupont (Shabnam Ahmed), Medtronic (Jeanine Abell, Rosa Padilla, Jennifer Brooks), and Smith Seckman Reid, Inc (Lauren Harrett). The panel was moderated by Engineering Professor Divya Choudhary from Christian Brothers University.

“The Society of Women Engineers inspires women at all stages of their careers and lives to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders.”

SWE Annual Conference in Philadelphia October 27-29, 2016

The SWE Annual Conference-known as “WE16”- is the world’s largest conference and career fair for women in engineering and technology.

WE16 will give you inspiring and invaluable ways to connect, discover career opportunities and pursue professional development. It’s where women engineers find the con-

stant support they need for life’s variables.

Come join a global gathering in Philadelphia of more than 9,000 women at all stages of their engineering careers. Collegiates will find internships, that all-important first job, new friends, mentors and life-skills not earned in the lecture halls. Professionals will rekindle old

friendships and make new ones, find new ways to approach their current job or discover a whole-new path. All will find their experience incredible.

For participating organization, WE16 will help you find new talent, provide professional development to current employees and support women in engineering and technology.



Learn more and register for WE16 by visiting <http://we16.swe.org/about-we16/>



Aspire / Advance / Achieve

Contact Us:

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The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is the world's largest advocate for all women in engineering and technology. The Society champions the value of diversity by being a catalyst for change. SWE inspires women to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders. The Society will be there for women as they seek to be their authentic selves through all stages of their careers and lives. SWE Memphis serves professional Society members in the greater Memphis metropolitan area. The Society of Women Engineers is a not-for-profit educational and service organization.

Follow SWE Memphis on the web and in the social media:

www.memphis.swe.org



Upcoming Events.... Get Involved!

Join SWE Memphis and get involved in our upcoming events. You can join by visiting www.swe.org/membership.

Our upcoming events in the area of K-12 STEM Outreach include the following:

- Middle School Robotics Program (get involved by visiting the link below)

www.swememphisrobotics.com

- Distribution of teacher "Back to School STEM Kits" (August)
- Student reading program
- E (Engineering) Day at the University of Memphis on October 21, 2016

In the area of collegiate engagement we'll be doing the following:

- "Stick with It" Panel Sessions for new engineering students (September 8 and 12)
- SWE Collegiate Conference Preparation 101 (October)
- SWE Collegiate Engineering Expo! (April)

Our upcoming events in the area of Professional Development include an October networking event and a SWE Memphis Charter Event (date TBD).

Locate specific event information by visiting our web-

site calendar on www.memphis.swe.org or our SWE Memphis Facebook page

Interested in volunteering for any of the events listed here? Send us an email at swememphisprof@gmail.com



The long term sustainability of the SWE Memphis professional section depends on strong member growth and participation.