Purdue University Women in Engineering Program

Design life. engineer.

Nation's First Women in Engineering Program

Make Your Mark

Dream It. Design It. Build It. Create It. That's what Purdue Engineering is all about.

WiE Connect Summer 2015
MISSION:

The Women in Engineering Program at Purdue University is dedicated to enriching the profession of engineering through the full participation of women. We develop and direct activities that provide:

- encouragement for girls and young women to study engineering.
- information about careers and companies.
- an environment conducive to the successful completion of students’ studies.

We also strive to maintain strong relationships with alumnae, friends and employers who generously support our program.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide career information and encouragement to pre-college girls and young women to continue achievement in math and science and consider engineering as an appropriate career choice.
- Encourage women to matriculate at Purdue University in the College of Engineering.
- Ensure a climate in the College of Engineering that allows young women to reach their full potential.
- Provide opportunities for women engineering students to develop leadership skills that can be utilized in their future lives.
- Encourage women to consider graduate education and academia among their options upon graduation.
- Maintain open communication with alumnae and their employers to encourage their continued participation in and support of the Women in Engineering Program.

Since 1969, Purdue’s Women in Engineering Program has been committed to increasing the recruitment, retention and graduation of women engineering students. Each year, we reach out to support and inform more than 4,000 girls and young women - from elementary school through graduate school.

The Women in Engineering Program could not achieve its mission to enrich the profession of engineering through the full participation of women without the generous support of our donors. We offer our sincerest thanks to all who continue to support our programs. To make a contribution, please visit giving.purdue.edu or contact Hilary Butler at 765.494.6383 or habutler@prf.org.
HOW ARE YOU CHANGING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT ENGINEERING?

WIEP strongly supports recent efforts by the engineering community to communicate more effectively about the profession and those who practice it. Results of research-based efforts led to the developing and testing of new, more effective messages about engineering. These new messages cast engineering as inherently creative and concerned with human welfare, as well as an emotionally satisfying calling. If you are in a position to influence young people, we encourage you to learn the best way to share what engineers are and what they do in a way that excites and inspires young people to go into engineering-related careers. Below are a couple of online resources to help you do just that!

Read the 2008 NAE publication, Changing the Conversation: Messages for Improving Public Understanding of Engineering.

Visit the National Academy of Engineering website on Messaging for Engineering: From Research to Action.

Train of Thought, pictured above, was brought to life in Purdue's own Artisan and Fabrication Laboratory by undergraduate students Lauren Myers-Bright (Multidisciplinary Engineering-Textile) and Joseph Morgan (Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering). It is currently on display in the Office of Future Engineer’s Welcome Center in the Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering.
ENGR 494 - WOMEN IN ENGINEERING SEMINAR: GENDER IN THE WORKPLACE

For the first time, WIEP piloted a one-credit course aimed at providing junior and senior engineering students an opportunity to maximize their earning potential, promotion opportunities, and retention within engineering and related fields. The class welcomed guest facilitators who shared stories and tips about their time in various engineering-related careers. The students also learned and practiced peer-coaching skills. As a result of course participation, enrolled students:

- became more aware of and internal and external barriers which can prevent women from reaching their greatest potential in the workforce, as well as solutions to these challenges
- enhanced their professional development and transition skills required to move successfully from an academic to professional environment
- acquired skills and knowledge to serve as engineering role models for diverse populations.

"I have greatly enjoyed this thought-provoking seminar, not only as an opportunity to learn new things and how to advance my career, but also as a way to better myself, my opinions, and how I view the impact that I could have in the world. Even when talking about school, this is the class that keeps coming to mind, and the one I love telling people about. Even my mom noticed that my passion for engineering had been re-invigorated. I love designing my own project and learning for the sake of learning. On our research project for our final project I greatly enjoyed networking, and going into a new situation with an open mind. I never thought I would want to go back to school after getting my undergraduate degree, but I can now see the appeal that a research position can have. This project has made me completely rethink my long-term career goals. I also have found the coaching to be incredibly rewarding... I have learned how to be a better listener, how to ask better questions, and how rewarding it can be to be a small part of someone else's success... The coaching element of this course can help me in the future when attending big meetings and asking potent questions. It can help me in academia when I want to dive deeper in the material and understand connections in order to really understand the concepts. I have highly recommended this class to anyone who has asked about it, and will definitely go into the book as one of my favorite college courses."

- ENG 494 Course Participant
"We need to introduce the concepts of engineering at a very early age. When I started working with WIEP, my idea was to take their brilliant ideas ‘on the road.’ The WIEP staff can’t be everywhere, so the extended family of other Purdue female engineering alums is a great way for us to spread the word."

-Cheryl Cunningham, BSCE ‘80, Purdue University
I'm also very excited to announce that I'm now an author! More important than that, the books I have written, with the help of my sister and niece, introduce the concept of engineering to young children from their perspective. The protagonists of the stories are young girls, which I chose deliberately with the hope that more young women will become interested in the engineering field. You can learn more about Yes I Can, I'm Clover Anne! and I Can Find a Way! I'm Lucy Kay! at Amazon.com. I hope you will share these books with the budding engineers in your life!
Thank you to all of our valued volunteers. The success of our Spring 2015 semester programming wouldn’t have been possible without the outstanding support from the following alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends who graciously volunteered their assistance to WIER.
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Lyles School of Civil Engineering
School of Materials Engineering
School of Industrial Engineering
Counseling and Psychological Services
School of Mechanical Engineering
Department of Earth, Atmospheric, & Planetary Sciences
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School of Materials Engineering
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School of Engineering Education
School of Chemical Engineering
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
School of Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering
School of Materials Engineering
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH WIEP

There are many ways for you to get involved with WIEP; e-mail us at wiep@purdue.edu if you have an interest in assisting with one of these valuable programs. Fall semester opportunities include:

Access Alum – informal chats with current students while on campus visiting, recruiting, etc.

Seniors Exploring Engineering (SEE) Purdue – one-day on-campus program for high school seniors. Needed: panels of young engineers to talk about what they do in the “real world”; faculty & grad students to lead interactive sessions on engineering disciplines; Purdue faculty, students, staff, and alumnae to network, guide and informally speak with high school seniors and their parents.

ENGR 194 – Women in Engineering seminar for first year students. Needed: motivational speakers who share college experiences and relate those to where they are now and what they do in their positions.

WE Link – connecting with high school seniors as they apply and ultimately decide whether Purdue engineering is the place for them. Needed: guest bloggers sharing experiences that encourage and inspire. Visit The Engineering Experience Blog.

Mentors & Mentees (M&M)/Graduate Mentoring Program (GMP) – Undergraduate and Graduate student mentoring programs. Needed: facilitators of interactive/workshop style topics including but not limited to: life skills, engineering roles, non-traditional paths, life/work balance, finances, Entrepreneurship, and global etiquette. Also needed: Next Step Coaches – graduates now in industry, academia, and government positions to provide more personalized interaction preparing participants for their careers.

Innovation to Reality (I2R) – on-campus after-school program for 6th-8th graders. Needed: faculty and graduate students to be guest speakers, provide lab tours, and hands-on engineering activities.

To look ahead at opportunities during the spring semester visit www.purdue.edu/wiep/EngagementOpportunities