

Society of Women Engineers

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES FROM RUTGERS SWE



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Supporting Women in Engineering at Rutgers Since 1975

by Vidushi Jindal

Rutgers' Society of Women Engineers is a collegiate section of the National Society of Women Engineers. Our goal is to create a create a network and support-system for women in engineering to help them achieve their full potential in all aspects. Our chapter offers several opportunities for members to gain leadership opportunities by leading events, including but not limited to mentoring, corporate, and networking events. For more than 70 years, SWE has given women in STEM a sense of belonging and a voice within the industry. Our organization encompasses passion for our members' success and continues to evolve with challenges presented to us in today's environment.





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SHE-SWE-MEET Career Fair

by Maria Galkin

In collaboration with Rutgers' SHPE (Society of Hispanic Engineers) and MEET/NSBE (Minority Engineering Educational Task - National Society of Black Engineers) chapters, we hosted our 37th annual and second virtual SHE-SWE-MEET career fair in a hybrid format. A team of nine representatives from all three organizations worked collaboratively to create an engaging, educational, and rewarding full-day career fair targeting 4,000 Rutgers engineering students. The mission of the SHE-SWE-MEET Career Fair is to demonstrate the value of diversity and inclusion by connecting company representatives with highly qualified women and minority students within the engineering and computer science fields, which aligns greatly with many companies' diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies. Despite the challenges of offering an in-person component since COVID-19, our team brought in 81 companies, graduate schools, and government nonprofits from across the U.S. to attend our career fair, ranging in industries anywhere from pharmaceuticals, defense, national research laboratories, and consulting firms. We diversified our career fair format to include 1:1 meetings with recruiters, group informational sessions, 1-hour hospitality suites, and networking sessions with engineers to maximize the number of students reached. By the end of the career fair, many of our students successfully obtained interviews, internship/co-op, and full-time offers with attending companies after the career fair. Lastly, we strengthened our corporate connections with Rutgers SWE.



WE Conference

by Maria Galkin

Every year, Rutgers SWE sponsors around 30-40 members to attend national conferences. Throughout the preceding academic year, we discussed the benefits of going to conferences and encouraged our members to attend SWE events throughout the year to be eligible to receive sponsorship from our chapter to attend. In late June we will hold an information session about the conference so that our members can learn more about it and get any questions answered. During the session, we reviewed how members can be eligible to attend funding, what events are offered during the conference, and how members can enroll in the SWE leadership institute and leadership development program to further their involvement in SWE. We also discuss ways members can apply for and utilize scholarships through Rutgers and SWE to increase access to the conference. At the end of the session, we also have time for Q&A so our members can get their questions answered. The week before the meeting, we also hold open office hours where upper-level students help revise our members' resumes and elevator pitches and give more insight about companies to apply to and how to make the most of the conference experience. With these two events, Rutgers SWE strives to increase our members' confidence and preparedness to begin their professional careers at the SWE National Conference.



SWELL Program

by Anisha Jackson

For our annual SWE Leaders and Learners Program (SWELL), we had 22 upperclassmen mentors and 24 mentees. This program allows upperclassmen to give back to the community by being able to mentor younger Rutgers engineering students by attending events together and meeting up at least three times throughout the semester. During these meetings, mentors could offer advice on navigating college, choosing classes, and looking for internships, among other topics. These meetings help first- and second-year students get involved at Rutgers and give them a resource to feel a part of the community at Rutgers. An example of meetings include looming, where mentors and mentees learned how to loom hats! SWELL helps build community among SWE classes, providing invaluable resources and mentorship for our members.



Etiquette Dinner

by Vidushi Jindal

During our Etiquette Dinner, SWE members got to participate in a 2-course etiquette dinner. This event aimed for members to learn proper dinner etiquette, which would be applicable during corporate events.

The dinner's significance was far beyond the dinner table, as members engaged with esteemed sponsors, including Capital One, Lutron, Accenture, and Lockheed Martin. These industry leaders shared insights, fostering authentic connections beyond traditional networking opportunities. The event's intimate setting allowed for personalized interactions, which nurtured mentorship and genuine relationships.

SWE Night

by Alyssa Katwala

On Friday, April 14th, our SWE section hosted the annual SWE Night, where our goal is to motivate female seniors in high school to pursue a degree in engineering at Rutgers. We had a fantastic time meeting and engaging with the students in different activities, including a student panel, an alum panel featuring Jessica Carvalho and Melanie Alpert, and a competition where students had to create a bridge using popsicle sticks and plastic straws, testing how much weight the bridge could hold. Some of the bridges were able to hold so much weight that we had to start using phones to put on the bridge, which shows how creative these kids were. During the student panel, attendees could ask various questions ranging from general engineering at Rutgers, being a female in engineering, and real work experience. Overall, it was a great experience connecting with future females in STEM, and we look forward to seeing some familiar faces at SWE next year!



Alumni Event

by Vidushi Jindal

The Alumni event was a great success as members came together to make bracelets, creating a stress-relieving environment amidst the pressures of midterm season. Beyond the bracelet-making, this event facilitated meaningful interaction between current and former SWE members. Additionally, this event allowed members to gain more insight into the post-graduation world. Our alums shared experiences, advice, and career journeys, enriching our current members' perspectives. The bracelet-making forged connections and fostered a sense of family within the SWE community.



Community Service

by Anisha Jackson

During our puppet-making Community service event, SWE made 36 puppets to donate to local public libraries, including Piscataway Public Library, where the puppets were used to help engage young children in reading. About 50 people came to make puppets representing all kinds of animals and cartoon characters during the event! Not only did our members have fun at the event, but we also made a difference, benefitting our local community.

In another community service event, SWE partnered with Habitat for Humanity and Rutgers Period Equity Project to make Spring Street CDC Healthy Women Healthy Families program care kits. During the event, members assisted in making Thanksgiving cards and care kits comprising oatmeal bars, water, pretzels, socks, hand warmers, and tea bags. SWE produced about 50 care kits in this event, and we were able to contribute to supporting people in need in our community.



End of Year Banquet

by Rudrani Ghosh

The SWE End of Year Banquet is one of our most anticipated events since it allows us to share our experiences in SWE and acknowledge the dedication of our members while being served a catered meal. With around 50 guests attending this year, we hosted an enchanted forest-themed banquet. The event is structured as such: we honor our seniors who have dedicated their undergraduate years to the club by giving them gifts as a token of our appreciation, we also thank our most active SWE members by providing them with attendance awards, and lastly, shoutout our board, whose effort has given the club a successful year. There are speeches and videos to celebrate the members and our club. This event promotes retention since it fosters the message that SWE is indeed a community for all.



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