University of Rochester
Society of Women Engineers

Report on SWE15 Conference
October 22-24
Nashville, Tennessee
"This past weekend I had the privilege of attending the 2015 National Society of Women Engineers Conference in Nashville, TN. Attending the conference was an extremely valuable experience for me as both a collegiate student and an aspiring professional engineer. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of this year’s conference. I attended a variety of talks including my personal favorite, "Introverts and Extroverts in Our Technical World: Finding Balance and the Best Outcomes." In addition, I attended a variety of career-preparation workshops including a resume review, a speed-dating style interview practice session, and a presentation about the "dos and don'ts of interviewing." By far, the highlight of the event was the career fair. One of my main goals for this conference was to find an internship for the upcoming summer. I talked seriously with four companies about internship opportunities and gained beneficial experience networking with large companies. I learned how to better present myself as a potential intern with each new representative I spoke with. Throughout the conference I collected several pieces of advice from successful women engineers during the talks I attended, the welcome luncheon, and during casual conversations with women I networked with during the conference. I strongly believe the advice I received will help me as I work toward my goal of finding a career in Biomedical Engineering." Amanda Smith ’17
“By going to the National SWE Conference, I was able to connect directly with companies that relate to my major and learn how their hiring process is conducted. They provided me information on what opportunities are available to me, and how to apply to them. This helped me put my education into perspective and gave me knowledge on how to tailor my job applications to be appealing to companies. It also inspired me to continue applying to positions online, as before this reinforcement, I had not had much hope that it would yield me a position.” Susan Butler ‘16
“This conference has made a huge difference in my academic career. Through its workshops, I gained valuable skills in learning how to improve resumes and hearing interviewing tips directly from a recruiter’s mouth. It also gave me a lot of confidence to see so many women who succeeded in engineering and gave me hope that I can do it too. The career fair at the conference was amazing as I was able to connect with so many companies and get a better understanding of what I can do with my major and what direction I want my career to go in”. Haley Knapp ‘18
"Attending the SWE national conference gave me an updated perspective on my career plans. Talking to recruiters gave me an idea as to what they are looking for when they review my resume when it lands on their desk. I now know what I must do in my remaining time here so that when I graduate, I am industry ready. I was also able to explore career options that I did not even know before, but am now very interested in. It was also great to bond with other women engineers from all over the country and the world and learn about what they are doing now. But most of all, it was inspiring to see all these women breaking barriers in their field. Interacting with so many women who are in the same stage of life as me, but those who are also newcomers and experts, gave me new insight on how to make my engineering career and life better and on how to pave my own path." Raaga Kanakam ‘17
“The Society of Women Engineers National Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee was an incredibly enriching experience for me. I had the opportunity to speak with many professional mechanical engineers working in the industry, helping me to form a more concrete idea of what I intend to do to further pursue my career. Being surrounded by so many successful women and hearing the stories of how they got where they are in their careers was inspiring. The workshops I attended on resume building, interview techniques, and networking were very effective and useful. I had never attended a career fair of such magnitude before, so it was truly exciting. The hundreds of companies present really expanded my concept of the opportunities available to me as a student of engineering, and as I talked to the varying companies of interest to me I realized just how exciting my career path truly could be. For me, spanning out from the intense focus of completing my education and taking a glance at the world ahead of me was incredibly inspiring, giving me a better concept of what I’m working towards. After attending this conference, I am happy to say that I have a much clearer set of goals and aspirations pertaining to my engineering career. I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend this conference, and hope to return in future years.” Meghan Patrick ‘18
“After attending the SWE13 conference two years ago, I knew that I wanted to become more actively involved in SWE to promote women engineers, and that this was a conference experience I wanted to share with my fellow colleagues. Especially since women are a minority in engineering, I believe the SWE conference is one of the best ways to expose our undergraduate population to some incredibly successful female engineers in the industry. Through lightning talks on leadership, professional workshops, and of course the career fair (with representation from over 200+ large companies), I believe everyone was able to walk away with something valuable that will help them in their future careers. I personally gained the most from listening to a presentation on the ‘Do’s and Don’ts of Interviewing’ held by Phillips 66, and being able to apply these techniques at the career fair. The scale of the conference itself has provided me with insight and experiences I cannot get on campus, but I am grateful for this learning opportunity that I can bring back and share. I am incredibly pleased that we were able to have eight students represent the University of Rochester at the conference this year, and sincerely hope that we can continue to send just as many if not more students in the coming years”. Natalie Tjota ‘16

Thank you!