Society of Women Engineers
Regional Conference Review

Newport News, Virginia
February 19th-21st
“The SWE Regional Conference was an incredibly enriching experience. We had the opportunity to connect with collegiate SWE sections from all over the East Coast, learning so much about how to make our section more effective and influential. The energy in the room full of both collegiate and professional women in engineering was powerful and inspirational. We received valuable advice from experienced professional women about career and collegiate planning. The conference workshops I attended on resume building, interview techniques, and networking were very effective and directly applicable to the extensive career fair available at the conference. For me, spanning out from the intense focus of completing my education and taking a glance at the world ahead of me was an incredibly motivating experience. Perhaps the most inspirational aspect of this trip was hearing the passion for the community we are creating in our organization from my fellow U of R SWE members throughout the conference. I am very thankful for the Hajjam School for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference, and hope to return in the future.”

-Meghan Patrick ‘18

“By attending the SWE regional conference in February I was able to learn a lot. I hadn't been to a SWE conference in the past and I was excited for the chance to go to this one. I learned a lot about my fellow UR SWE members and what they have been doing in terms of career and research goals. I think the most beneficial part was to hear from other collegiate SWE chapters to learn about how they have been successful and their advice on how to accomplish similar feats. It was inspirational to hear how they have made impacts on their college campuses and communities to help the engineering environment and gain recognition as competent young women. We also had the chance to meet professionals. We had meals together and had the chance to learn about their stories in the professional world and how they ended up in their own paths. We spent nearly the whole trip back talking about ways to make our SWE chapter ever better. It was only a three day conference but we came back inspired to work hard in our classes to reach for higher goals. After going to this regional conference, I am more excited and feel more prepared for the National Conference in the fall.”

-Kathryn LaBine 18’
“The SWE Region E Conference presented endless opportunities to network, meet other women collegiate engineers, obtain helpful advice, and attend informative workshops. I learned so much from the "Creating and Managing your Authentic, Strengths-Based Brand" workshop and when we got back from the conference I immediately took the survey to find my strengths! I now know how I can market myself to future employers and I also know how to make best use of my strengths thanks to the SWE Region E Conference. Truly, this is an amazing experience and I think all women in engineering (and men for that matter!) at the University of Rochester should have the opportunity to attend a SWE conference. I'm already looking forward to the next conference in Philadelphia. I hope that SWE has the ability to give more than eight engineers at a time the opportunity to attend a SWE conference in the future.”

-Becca Walton 18’

"Attending the SWE Conference was a huge step forward in my journey in becoming a professional engineer. I had educational experiences at the career fair learning about the types of jobs that I can be doing as a mechanical engineer and what companies were looking for in interns and employees. I was excited to realize that companies creating every-day products like Keurig were looking for college students like me to work for them. I also went to interesting talks, my favorite being "Creating and Managing your Authentic, Strengths-Based Brand" in which Jennifer Braganza spoke about how you must know your strengths better than anyone else and to use that knowledge to better brand yourself. Overall, this trip was a memorable experience, while I learned a lot at the conference, I also made stronger connections with the other SWE members."

-Nipu Berger '18
"I was fortunate enough to attend the SWE Region E Conference this past February, and it was one of the most beneficial professional experiences I've had. What was most helpful for me was getting to meet so many women in engineering fields, and hearing about their experiences in their respective fields. Talking with them opened my eyes to the many diverse applications for my more specialized major, Audio & Music Engineering. I truly appreciated the opportunity to gain advice on education, resume building, job applications, and other related topics from such an accomplished group of women, and as such I hope to attend more SWE conferences in the future."

-Claire Wenner 17’

We had the opportunity to explore the local marina and walk along the beautiful Virginia Coast.

The theme of our conference was “Under the SWE.”
At the conclusion of the conference, we were presented the *Region E Collegiate Small Section Membership Award.*

Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to have this enriching experience!