Get Involved with Outreach!

by Kirstin Ehlers

If you’re passionate about promoting engineering and other STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, we have several upcoming volunteer opportunities to participate in outreach to middle and high school students.

- **Expand Your Horizons** - Friday, January 20th from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at Union Station’s Science City
  Help lead two workshops for 6th - 8th grade girls who are looking to interact with female role models in STEM careers. Explore the concepts of force and motion as the girls create a balloon airplane and compete with each other in a race.

- **Future City** - morning of Saturday, January 21st at KU Lawrence
  Help judge the presentations and models of the “future cities” created by 6th - 8th grade students competing to advance to the National Finals in Washington DC.

- **IGED** - Friday, February 17th from 7:30 am - 2:00 pm at UMKC

- **FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Greater Kansas City Regional** - March 1st-3rd at Hale Arena/Kemper Complex

We are also seeking a few individuals will to help with the following:

- **Jared Hook**, a Project Lead the Way teacher at William Chrisman, is looking for a female engineer willing to act as a mentor to his all-female PLTW classes. In addition, he is looking for someone to sit on his Advisory Board that covers the pre-engineering classes for the entire Independence School District.

- **Girl Scout Troop 1625** is looking for help with their Silver Award Project. They are making structures out of builder boards (like life-size Lincoln Logs) for the Wonderscope Children's Museum in Shawnee, and they need an adult with wood working talents to help cut the boards. They are flexible with the time frame, but would prefer to have it done by the end of May.

If you are interested in volunteering, or if you would just like more information on any of the above, please email Kristin Ehlers at kehlers@kcp.com.

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Have you ever wondered exactly what the Kansas City SWE Chapter did? What they were involved in? And how you could get involved?

If you have, we invite you to come out to a **MEET & GREET**

Our group gathers on the **2nd Wednesday** each month to keep in touch with one another and stay in tune with the many opportunities to get involved in the community.

**December 14th KC SWE Meet & Greet**
Tomfooleries at 5:30 – 7:00 pm
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional Volunteers Still Needed to Support KC SWE 2012 Goals

Have you thought about increasing your involvement with SWE? Joining a committee is a great way to meet other SWE members, network and share in achieving group goals. If interested, contact a committee chair listed below.

- **Creating Community**
  Contact: Stephanie DeCaro, stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com

- **Growing the Profession – Outreach**
  Contact: Kristin Ehlers, kehlers@kcp.com

- **Professional Excellence**
  Contact: Amanda Wages, amanda.wages@wilsonco.com

- **Industry Catalyst**
  Contact: Jane Knoche, jane.knoche@swe.org

**JEC Directory**

The JEC website now has an on-line directory of members from the Kansas City area! If you are a paid 2012 SWE member and wish to be included in the directory, please contact stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com to have your information added.

**KC–SWE Executive Board Meeting Schedule**

There will not be a December KC-SWE board meeting. Meetings will continue to be held the third Tuesday of each month starting again in January 2012, from 7–8 pm at Panera Bread, 15108 W 119th St, Olathe KS 66062 (between Hwy 35 and Black Bob, N side of 119th). All members are welcome to attend.

**Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for 2012**

- KC SWE Board
Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

by Katie Tepper

Kansas City SWE members are planning the second annual IGED for February 17, 2012 at the UMKC campus. We hope to attract 100 high school students (grades 9-12) accompanied by 50 female professional engineering mentors. The schedule for the day includes several hands-on design activities, an engineering industry fair with local Kansas City companies, and a college panel with current engineering college students. SWE hopes to encourage these young women to pursue STEM fields.

If you are interested in finding out more about SWE’s IGED2012, check out the event website at http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/ or email kc.iged@gmail.com.

We are currently seeking registrations for both students and mentors. Paper and electronic registrations are all available on the IGED website. The registration deadline is January 20, 2012—sign up now!
More about KC STEM Alliance  

by Stephanie DeCaro

Our November Board meeting included a discussion with Ann Zimmerman, Industry Coordinator at KC STEM Alliance. She shared with us the increasing concern of education, business and government leaders that to compete in a technologically advanced world we must encourage STEM education. Ann explained the how the KC STEM Alliance was recently created to provide an all-encompassing organization in the KC metropolitan area to implement, support and track STEM programs such as Project Lead the Way and FIRST. Currently, over 17,000 students in 27 school districts, private schools and community organizations benefit from these STEM programs in the KC area. Below is KC STEM Alliance’s Vision and Mission as stated on their new website.

The vision of the KC STEM Alliance is to see that a diverse, innovative and sustainable STEM workforce becomes a reality. By developing an environment that leverages the strengths of educators, STEM organizations, and local industry we can create a collaborative network to encourage and sustain interest in STEM careers. Working together will allow us to target limited resources where they are most needed, strengthen STEM programs across the community and serve as a vital source of information and research.

Mission Statement: The KC STEM Alliance is a collaborative network of educators, business affiliates and organizations that inspires interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers to generate a robust force of related professionals for our community.

By fulfilling this mission, the KC STEM Alliance will:

• Create a shared services model for STEM programs, such as Project Lead the Way and FIRST, coordinating data collection and program evaluation as well as facilitating school and industry partnerships
• Support a solid foundation of STEM education for all students, regardless of race, gender or economic status
• Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of job-ready candidates for local STEM employers
• Advance economic development and progress in our community

How it works: In the past industry, educators and affiliate STEM organizations were challenged with establishing relationships, finding support and managing resources to achieve their goals. The KC STEM Alliance will unite and connect area resources and serve as a vital source of STEM related information.

KC SWE members have participated in the past with FIRST Robotics and this year with FIRST Lego League, PLTW Mentor Day and Student Interviews. In conjunction with Ann and STEM Alliance, KC-SWE’s Outreach Committee plans to continue to provide STEM related volunteer opportunities to our membership. For more information on KC STEM Alliance visit kcstem.org.

Stay tuned for details on these events in future newsletters

Webinar view and discuss, Saturday, January 21\textsuperscript{st} 2012
Engineers’ Week Luncheon, Thursday, February 23\textsuperscript{rd} 2012
Webinar view and discuss, Saturday, March 24\textsuperscript{th} 2012