



SWE-KC NEWSLETTER

Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers, P.O. Box 860363, Shawnee, KS 66286

Email: swe.kc.mail@gmail.com Website: swe-kc.org

SWE-KC President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready for an exciting winter with SWE-KC. We have a lot going on in the next several months. Please visit the website (swe-kc.org) often to stay up to date on all the upcoming SWE-KC events. Additionally, you'll find more information on a few of our larger events in this issue of the newsletter including information on Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2014 (pg 9) and a joint event with NSBE on January 29 over "Meditation and Mindfulness in the Workplace" (pg 9) – an important topic to keep in mind as we begin a new year.

It is also that time of year where we begin to look ahead to the next few years and develop a succession plan for our leadership team. It's imperative that we identify passionate and dedicated individuals to lead our organization in the years to come to ensure that we continue to work toward our goals and add value to the lives of our members and the community. If you attended our SWE Career Path event in the fall, you learned how important it is to plan your SWE career just like you would your professional career. If you have aspirations to hold a section, regional or society position in the Society of Women Engineers, please consider turning in your career path information so we know how best to support you in your goals. If you did not attend the Career Path event but are interested in the information and template, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com and we'll provide you with a valuable tool for setting career goals and generating a path to achieve them.

Being a leader in SWE, at any level, is an excellent way to develop your leadership and professional skills in a safe environment and affords you the opportunity to work closely with some amazing women! If you would like to get more involved and are interested in a leadership position (including volunteering for a committee) this year, next year, or even within the next five years, please let us know. Showing interest does not guarantee a position nor does it require an immediate commitment; it is just your opportunity to indicate that you may want to be more actively involved in the organization in the future. We are now planning for the next several years, so it's valuable for us to know of any interest you may have, even if you are

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not available to make a commitment within the next year or two. As always, please feel free to contact any of the officers directly or email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. We are here to support and serve you and want you to consider your participation with SWE to be a valuable addition to your lives so we welcome any feedback you may have. I wish you all a prosperous new year.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Council Meeting Schedule

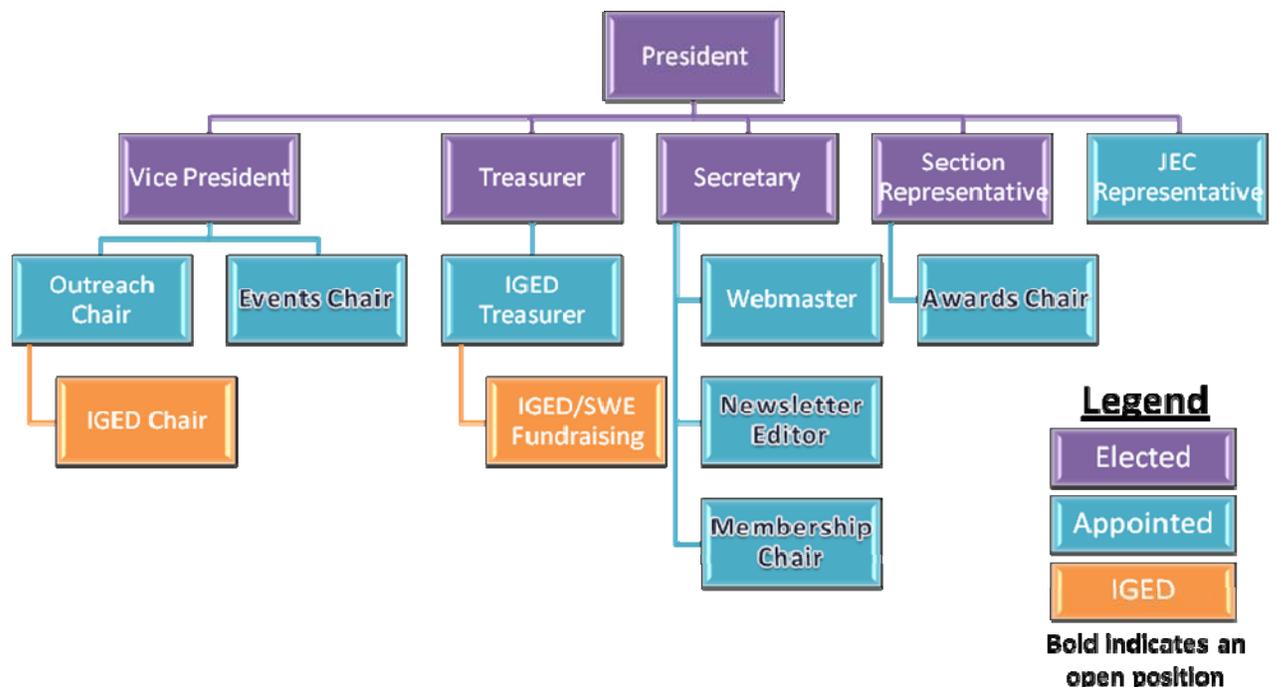
Executive council meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 pm. Every third executive council meeting will be held at Panera (1128 W.103rd St, Kansas City, 64114 – east of State Line Road). All members are welcome to attend.

SWE-KC Fellow News

Dr. Deborah Obannon, SWE-KC Fellow and Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is currently on sabbatical in Israel. Please check out her adventures on her blog at <http://debinisrael.blogspot.com>.

Organizational Structure

If you would like to get involved within a committee or chair position, please email swe.kc.mail@gmail.com with your name and which positions you are interested in. Responsibilities for the positions can be found on the website <http://www.swe-kc.org/> under the News' tab.



Society of Women Engineers Annual Conference October 2013, Baltimore

by Jenna Harpole

I attended the 2013 SWE Annual Conference this year in Baltimore. It was a great place to meet other SWE members from other regions and across the globe. The conference highlights for me were networking and attending professional development sessions. The conference had 7 tracks for professional development including Career and Life Transitions, Careers in Academia, Careers in Government & Military, Inclusion & Cultural Awareness, Innovation in Technology & Business, Management & Strategy, and Outreach. Some of the most interesting sessions to me were about: Creating a personal brand; Know where you stand throughout the year, don't wait for the review!; Executive Leadership Coaching: Prepare Yourself to Take that next step; Computer Bag by Day, Diaper Bag by Night: Embracing the Journey of Life as a Working Mom; What will you do with your first million?; Amplify the Potential of your Team; and Mentee Enrichment Training.

The most interesting session I attended was titled "Computer Bag by Day, Diaper Bag by Night: Embracing the Journey of Life as a Working Mom" By Lynette Sapienza which explored the unrealistic expectations we often set for ourselves. She continued by helping the audience to analyze how we currently spend our time vs. how we would ideally like to spend our time with the consistent constraint of 24 hours in a day. While those two pictures may look very different that's where our action plan for change comes in. Those in attendance left with an action plan to live your priorities and determine what success looks like for yourself.

Denise Gray from SWE KC led a really good session entitled "Amplify the Potential of Your Team" she highlighted the concepts of Planning: Distinguishing your team personality and how to maximize team achievements ·Enabling Success: The environment you create will change your team and its potential · and Facilitating Change: Keys to gain comfort in change for success.

SWE KC member, Libby Allman, was also awarded the honor of SWE Fellow during the Friday night SWE Achievement Awards Banquet.

Overall SWE Annual Conference 2013 was a great experience, and I look forward to see you next year at SWE Annual Conference 2014 in Los Angeles, California October 23-25. The theme will be **A Global Exchange for Change**. Registration will open in July 2014.

WE13 Photographs



Denise Gray leading her session: Amplify the Potential of your Team



Mentee Enrichment Training lead by CLCC & LCC



Region I Meeting at Society Conference

Libby Allman Honored as SWE Fellow

The Society of Women Engineers annually awards the membership grade of Fellow to women who have:

- achieved professional excellence while also making substantive contributions towards advancing the objectives and goals of SWE, and
- contributed significantly to the public's awareness of engineering as a profession for women through leadership in professional organizations and in the community.

At the 2013 Women Engineers Conference in Baltimore, SWE-KC member Libby Allman was awarded the honor of Fellow.

After obtaining experience with Fike Corporation and Grant Thornton Management Consultant, Libby joined Hallmark Cards in 2000 as a mechanical engineer in Advancing Technologies. She held various positions within Operations including management positions in Global Procurement and Supply Chain. Libby is currently director of process and program management where she leads a 150-person team in business improvements for the entire company. She is also responsible for leveraging end-to-end business processes and Lean capabilities.

Libby's first real exposure to SWE was when she was a new engineer at Fike Corporation. Her mother attended her first SWE dinner meeting with her citing the importance of participating and advocating for your profession beyond work. Libby's motivation was two-fold: her role-model mother was a nurse professional who held Board positions within nursing organizations and Libby was the only female engineer at her company and wanted to find other women with similar interests and concerns.

Libby's passion for SWE – both locally and nationally – grew tenfold at the first national conference she attended. She notes “the number of female engineers was astounding and I quickly realized the potential impact we could have with focused effort. Key areas where I felt I could have an impact were in career development – encouraging young women to consider engineering as a career, and public policy – advocating for issues affecting women in engineering.”

As she matured in her leadership capability through SWE and through her work, she pursued roles on national committees, national committee chair and eventually the national board of directors. Through these roles, Libby continued to talk about and helped to enable a vision that included public policy and advocacy. In order to realize that vision, Libby helped facilitate major changes in governance and provided a direction for how SWE would enter the world of public policy and advocacy. SWE leaders continue to build upon and realize the vision today.

Libby's commitment to the support of women engineers is also evident in her work at Hallmark where she supports and mentors groups of IT and supply chain women leaders. The goals of these groups are to connect with other professional women, to expand Hallmark knowledge, and to explore business and technical trends within and beyond Hallmark.

Outside of Hallmark and her technical role, Libby continues her passion for mentoring of women through her work with the Girl Scouts where she is Chair of the Board of Directors of the NE Missouri and NE Kansas Council of Girl Scouts. This Council is one of the largest in the nation serving over 30,000 girls in 47 countries.

SWE-KC is proud to count Libby as a member and grateful for her continuing support and involvement in our strategic activities to promote engineering as a career for women.

FELLOW GRADE

Elizabeth A. (Libby) Allman

Hallmark Cards



CITATION

For being a champion of women engineers, advocating on their behalf in the profession and through outreach and mentoring, and for staunch support of the Society of Women Engineers.

Elizabeth A. (Libby) Allman joined Hallmark Cards in 2000 as a mechanical engineer. She is now director of process and program management, leading a 150-person team to develop processes and manage projects that improve business for the entire company. She is also responsible for all corporate lean and process activities and for developing and monitoring process metrics and corporate data management.

She has held various operations management positions with Hallmark, in global procurement and supply chain. As general manager of the Liberty Distribution Center, one of the largest distribution centers in the United States, she oversaw 1,200 employees, 2 million square feet of plant space, and a multimillion-dollar annual budget. Prior to joining Hallmark, Allman was a consultant with Grant Thornton LLP and before that, an engineer at Fike Corporation in Blue Springs, Mo.

Allman holds two undergraduate degrees: one in mechanical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and one in physics from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. She earned an MBA from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo.

In 1991, Allman attended a SWE dinner meeting with her mother, who was a nurse. A recent college graduate, a new hire at Fike Corporation, and the only woman engineer in her company, Allman was looking for other women with technical backgrounds. Following her mother's advice to advocate for her profession, Allman joined SWE and has championed women engineers ever since. Very active in her local section, Allman served as Kansas City Section representative and president and on the section's board of directors. She also served as advisor to the University of Missouri-Kansas City Collegiate Section. She represented SWE at many events, including Kansas City ASME chapter meetings, the North Kansas City High School awards celebration, and University of Missouri-Kansas City and Columbia events.

At the Society level, she was vice president and served three terms on the board of directors, concentrating on public policy and advocacy. Believing strongly that a focused SWE could have a great impact, she helped bring about changes in governance to facilitate the Society's entrance into public policy and advocacy.

This included strategic partnerships with organizations such as ASME and the Girl Scouts. SWE leaders continue to build upon this vision.

At Hallmark, Allman co-leads two groups for women leaders: Women in Supply Chain and Women in Technology. These groups meet regularly to connect professional women. Activities include formal mentoring, executive speakers, and education on technical and business topics. Another important part of Allman's leadership responsibilities is mentoring other women managers — most of them engineers. She helps them navigate corporate, leadership, and political issues and advocates for them during career-planning discussions.

Among her many other volunteer activities, Allman is on the board of directors of the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri, and in countless public appearances, promotes the engineering profession to women and girls. She lives in Kansas City, Mo., with her husband, Scott, and their two children, Eleanor and Henry.

Region i News and Announcements

By Jenna Harpole, SWE Region i Lt. Governor

It is time to start thinking about who will host our next regional conferences. This year we will be accepting conference bids for consideration for the next 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017). We would also like you to consider hosting a joint conference with another region.

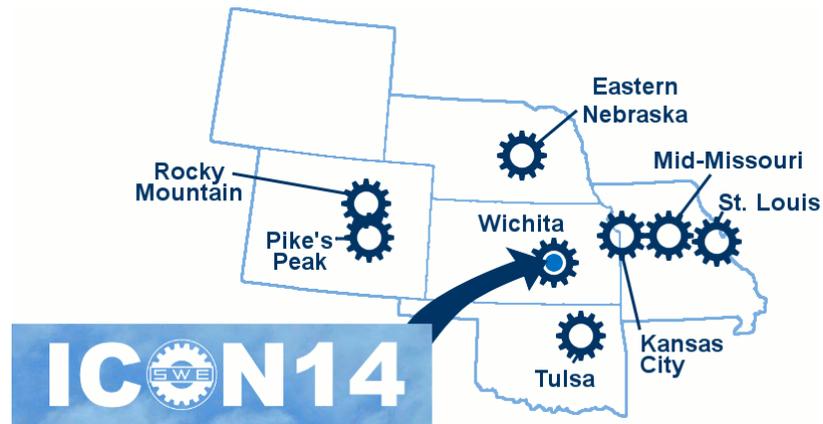
Hosting a SWE Regional Conference is a great opportunity for professional and collegiate sections, as well as MALs, to feature their SWE leadership, project management skills, teamwork, engineering community and hometown charm. It can even be a fundraising event for your section! In the past, over 200 members have attended our Region i conferences.

The following schedule outlines the **bid submittal and selection process**:

Bid Process Deadlines:

- January 18: Bid Presentations due to Lt Governor at jenna.harpole@swe.org.
- February 1: Lt Governor returns Bid Presentations with comments.
- February 15: Final Bid Presentations due to Lt Governor; Bid Presentations will be posted on dropbox and distributed to voting members of the Region.
- March 1: Bid presentations presented at Region Conference in Wichita during the Joint Meeting.
- March 1 Banquet: Announce winning bids for FY15, FY16 and FY17.

The approved Region i Conference process and Bid Presentation Guidelines are posted in the region dropbox. The deck that contains bidding requirements is also attached. The bids will be reviewed and awarded based on adherence to the process and guidelines. For questions, please contact Region i Lt. Governor, Jenna Harpole at jenna.harpole@swe.org or Chriss Chavez at governor-i@swe.org.



Take Flight with SWE

Wichita, Kansas – February 28, 2014 – March 2, 2014

The Wichita Professional Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), in collaboration with Wichita State University Collegiate Section, is proud to be hosting the 2014 Region I Conference, *Take Flight with SWE*, Feb 28 - March 2, 2014 in Wichita, KS. The Annual Region I Conference supports diversity in STEM, provides networking opportunities, as well as SWE, personal, and professional development. This Conference brings together engineering students and professionals from 22 universities and 8 professional sections in a six state area; Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Wyoming. The membership total of the Region is approximately 1,700 members of all engineering backgrounds. We hope you will join us in the Air Capital to *Take Flight with SWE* through one or all of these exciting opportunities:

- Cool Technical Tours
- Well Attended Career Fairs
- Fantastic Keynote Speakers
- Relevant Programming
- Fun Networking Events

Early registration ends on January 31, 2014.

Late Registration: February 1, 2014 – February 19, 2014

Last day for a cancellation/refund is February 1, 2014

If you have any questions about the conference or registration, please contact Cassie Schroeder at sweicon14.comm@gmail.com. To get more information about the conference and to register, go to the following link: <http://wichitaswe.org/icon14/index.php#home>

Upcoming Event

Meditation & Mindfulness in the Workplace

After the busy holiday season, take some time out to learn stress reduction techniques you can use every day. Kim Colegrove will impart relaxation strategies you can use at home and at work. Leave the seminar feeling calm and refreshed. SWE and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) are hosting this great event and we encourage everyone to attend! Light refreshments will be served.

When: Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 6:00-7:30 pm

Where: Black & Veatch

11401 Lamar Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66211

PG4 Multi-Purpose Room

11401 Lamar Avenue

Overland Park, KS 66211

Agenda

6:00pm - 6:10pm Introduce SWE & NSBE

6:10pm - 6:30pm Icebreakers

6:30pm - 7:30pm "Meditation and Mindfulness in the Workplace" by Kim Colegrove

Kim Colegrove is a long-time meditator, meditation instructor, and professional speaker. Originally trained in Transcendental Meditation, Kim now teaches her own easy-to-learn meditation techniques, and offers mindfulness training. She keeps things simple with logical instruction and a real-world, mainstream approach. Kim has worked with many organizations to bring stress relief to employees nationwide. Come learn how to reduce stress by being mindful and meditating.

IGED 2014!

By Angie Ladwig

The fourth annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) is fast approaching on Friday February 21st and we have close to 100 young women registered! Not only will the event be held at a new venue, the Overland Park Convention Center, we are also expecting to double our number of participants!

We are still accepting student registrations so if you know of a female high school student interested in engineering, please share this fantastic opportunity.

Student Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/IGED2014-KC-Registration>

One of the keys to IGED's success is the recruitment of female mentors willing to spend a day with our participants. Our goal is to have at least 100 mentors so please consider volunteering as well as encouraging your friends and co-workers to sign up as well.

Mentor Registration Survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YNC8MYW>

Additional information can be found at <http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/>

Please contact Kim Bartak at kbartak@burnsmcd.com with any questions.

SWE-KC 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

Date/Time	Event	Type
January 15	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
January 17	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
January 24	Expanding Your Horizons Science City at Union Station, Kansas City, MO	●
January 26	Great Plains Regional Future City Competition KU, Lawrence, KS	●
January 29 6:00-7:30pm	SWE-KC/NSBE Mixer (Joint with NSBE) Black & Veatch, Overland Park, KS	■ ◆
February 12 5:30-7:00pm	Meet & Greet hosted by TBD (Joint with KU Section) TBD in Lawrence, KS	■
February 19	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
February 21	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
February 21	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) Overland Park Convention Center in Overland Park, KS	● SWE-KC hosts this event!
February 28 – March 2	Region / Conference Wichita, KS	■ ◆
March 5	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
March 12 5:30-7:00pm	Meet & Greet hosted by TBD TBD	■
March 13	Greater Kansas City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Women's Luncheon Metropolitan Community College – Business & Technology Campus, Kansas City, MO	●
March 13-15	Greater Kansas City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Metropolitan Community College – Business & Technology Campus, Kansas City, MO	●
March 14	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
April 9	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
April 9 5:30-7:00pm	Meet & Greet hosted by TBD (Joint with UMKC Section) TBD	■
April 11	Inspire Chats Center School District in Kansas City, MO	●
TBD in April	Office Elections	
May 14 5:30-7:00pm	Meet & Greet hosted by TBD TBD	■
June 6 (Tentative)	Annual Picnic TBD	■
June 11 5:30-7:00 pm	Meet & Greet hosted by TBD TBD	■
TBD	Middle School Engineering Camp (MSEC)	●
July 9 5:30-7:00pm	Meet & Greet hosted by TBD TBD	■

Legend of Event Types

- Volunteering
- Networking
- ◆ Professional Development



*Have you ever wondered exactly what SWE-KC does?
What we are involved in? And how you can 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 meet new faces, catch up with friends and stay in tune with the many opportunities to get involved in the community. For the convenience of our members, each month the Meet & Greets are held in a different location.

See the SWE-KC Upcoming Events for the next Meet and Greet date.

Meet & Greet invites that can be added to Outlook are sent to our email list at the beginning of each month. Please contact swe.kc.mail@gmail.com if you are not receiving the invites.

Meet and Greet Coordinators Needed!

If you've been meaning to make it to the Meet and Greets, but can't seem to get to the location, here's a chance for you to host it close to you! All you have to do is pick a 2nd Wednesday of a month you are available and reserve spots for 10 from 5:30pm-7:00pm at your favorite restaurant. If they have a happy hour, that's even better! Then show up the day of with a sign-in sheet, socialize and take a photo. It's that easy! You'll meet some fun women over a drink or bite to eat.

If you are interested, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

We're on Facebook!

Thank you to Deepthi Abbireddy and Susan Enneking for setting up the Facebook group!
To see it, log into Facebook, search for "SWE-KC", and join our group. It's that easy!
All event pictures are posted on Facebook so it's easier to look through them.

If you have additional things you'd like to see on the SWE-KC Facebook group page, please email them to swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

SWE-KC 2014 Sponsors

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