SWE–KC President’s Message

As SWE-KC President, I was extremely pleased to see so many SWE members from around the country in Kansas City to “Engineer a Game Plan!” With tireless leadership from our iCON15 co-chairs, Katie Lin, SWE-KC Section Rep, and Katie Gonzagowski, SWE-UMKC President, we were able to end Kansas City’s 23-year dry spell in hosting the Region i conference! We even had some record numbers:

- Over 225 registrants,
- About $45,000 in sponsorships and
- A greater than 4 out of 5 satisfaction rating!

IGED was also a great success in its 5th year! We had 220 high school girls who were mentored by 80 female mentors. This year, mentors were from the KC Metro as well as from Iowa, Colorado and Oklahoma. I heard great feedback from girls and mentors alike, and everyone seemed to have fun creating a wind turbine. Some of the mentors were here scouting out KC IGED, so their sections could start an IGED of their own!

With iCON15 on top of IGED, our usual Meet and Greets, outreach and other Section events, we have been an extremely active section in FY15. Region i officials have taken note of SWE-KC’s energy and accomplishments! Not only did SWE-KC’s Katie Lin, Adriana Aguilar and Jenna Harpole Walsh all receive Governor’s Impact awards, but SWE-KC won the Region i “involved” Award! We want to channel all of our momentum into more active membership in SWE-KC. Please feel free to email me at lavin.sunita@gmail.com to ask how you can get more involved on our committees.

Remember that SWE is what we make of it, and for just a few hours of involvement a year, you could be networking, learning new skills and inspiring the next generation!

Sunita Lavin
SWE-KC President
lavin.sunita@gmail.com
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Time to Renew Your Membership**
To continue to support SWE's mission of inspiring women to achieve their full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, renew your membership now! Renewing now means that you will continue to receive all of the benefits of SWE membership. Visit [swe.org](http://swe.org) to process your dues payment by June 30, 2015.

**SWE–KC FY16 Election Results**
Congratulations to the new FY16 officers!

- **President:** Katie Lin
- **Vice President:** MaKayla Sprague
- **Secretary:** Kim Bartak
- **Treasurer:** Sunita Lavin
- **Section Representative:** Adriana Aguilar

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**SWE–KC Outreach Update**

**Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair**
SWE-KC selects one high school student to receive a special award and $50 cash prize each year. This year’s winner was Brittany Cost from Olathe North HS for her project entitled “Measuring the Permeability and Porosity of Sedimentary Rocks and Their Impact on Oil Retention.” Way to go, Brittany!

**FIRST Robotics**
SWE sponsored two local FIRST Robotics teams this year. Congratulations to the Lincoln Prep Tigerbytes (below left) and Warrensburg Burger Bots (below right)!
iCON15: Post–Game Recap
By: Heather Jones and Katie Lin

The Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers, in collaboration with the UMKC Collegiate Section, hosted the Region i Conference at the Marriott Country Club Plaza on February 27-28, 2015. With your support, we welcomed 227 professional and collegiate members to Kansas City from throughout Region i.

This year’s conference theme was “Engineer a Game Plan.” The theme was chosen to highlight the many engineering & stadium design firms in Kansas City. The theme also promotes the mission of SWE and the goal of the conference: to stimulate women to achieve full potential as engineers and leaders by “engineering a game plan for their careers.”

On Friday, many of our conference attendees came into town a day early to volunteer at Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED). Several of them came to learn more about IGED so they could even bring it back to their town.

Friday afternoon was spent networking and touring some interesting Kansas City sites. The Roasterie invited us to try out their air roasted coffees, and the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts took our group on a grand tour. What an amazing building!
The day finished up with a fun and entertaining Trivia Night that kept the attendees’ level of enthusiasm high as the majority of the attendees made their way into town and finished registration.

Saturday was truly the main event. Shannon Oleen, our keynote speaker, kicked off our morning, as she showed us how to “dream it, map it, reach it.” She also reminded us that “Nobody else is going to be the best cheerleader for you, except yourself.” It was a very powerful message, and we were so grateful to have her kick off a full day of activities.

Saturday consisted of speaker sessions, SWE Region business meetings, and a career fair. Throughout the day Saturday, we had a total of 28 speaker sessions, covering a wide range of topics including 3D Printing, Stadium Design, Work Life Balance, Personal Finance, STEM Outreach, SWE Best Practices, Graduate School FAQs, and much more. We were also fortunate to have 23 companies and graduate schools attend the career fair, and a few companies even held on-site interviews! Additionally, throughout the career fair, attendees had the option to receive a professional headshot. This was a great resource that we were proud to offer. Over 125 attendees took advantage of it, and each received a free professionally finished headshot for use wherever they need a professional image.
The evening keynote address was given by Sherri Privitera of Populous; it was an inspiring speech on her challenges and successes as a woman (and as a new mom) in the male-dominated field of sports stadium design. Everyone found something that resonated with them in her message.

The evening keynote was followed by the Region i Closing Banquet, in which the Kansas City section won the Region i Professional Section “Involved” Award. This was well-deserved, especially after a year of many volunteer hours spent planning both IGED and iCON15 for the same weekend!

The conference concluded with entertainment from ComedyCity Improv, a show that had everyone rolling on the floor laughing. The end of the conference came with mixed emotions from Kansas City SWE members. For a few, it was the first region conference they had attended, and they left feeling inspired and empowered. Some, who spent hours planning it all year, were glad it was finally over. Others can’t wait to see what next year’s conference committee has planned in Boulder, Colorado.

We would like to thank everyone who played a role in helping make the conference successful. Thanks to all of our sponsors; thanks to all the volunteers who helped throughout the conference; and especially, thanks to the planning committee who spent many volunteer hours over the past year putting the conference together!

For more photos and highlights of the conference, see: storify.com/SWEiCON/swe-icon15
Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)

SWE-KC held its 5th annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) in conjunction with the 2015 Region i Conference (iCON15). The event was the biggest one yet with 220 high school girls and 80 mentors in attendance, including mentors from around Region i.

The day started off with a morning mingle. Then there was an engineering discipline fair, where engineering students and professional engineers explained different kinds of engineering through posters and hands-on demonstrations. There was also a college panel featuring female engineering students from regional universities as well as an industry and university fair. Many local companies, who also sponsored the event, attended the industry fair to teach the girls more about the different engineering careers they could pursue. This encouraged the girls to start thinking more about what kind of company and industry they may want to work in after college.

During lunch, the section was honored to have Cindy Hoover, SWE Treasurer, give the keynote about her career and how the girls could change the world!

Then, the afternoon consisted of a hands-on engineering challenge: to build a wind turbine using office supplies. The girls paired up in teams with their mentor to select their materials and design and build their wind turbines. The wind turbines were required to be able to pass two different tests. First, the turbines had to rotate with the wind generated by a hairdryer for 30 seconds. The second test was to wind a teabag. The team that could wind the teabag the fastest won a prize.

At the end of the day, three senior girls went home with a free College To Career (C2C) SWE membership. Overall, the event was a huge success. Thank you to all of our mentors, volunteers and sponsors!

We look forward to seeing you at IGED 2016 on Friday, February 26, 2016 at Bartle Hall!
SWEtie Pi Reception

On March 13th, SWE-KC hosted a SWEtie Pi Networking Event and Reception for FIRST Robotics Regional Competition. This event brought girls participating in the competition in contact with mentors who are in current engineering roles around the metro. At the start the girls were greeted by SWE-KC President Sunita Lavin, as well as Don Bossi, President of FIRST. Don welcomed everyone and encouraged the competitors to take advantage of the women engineers in the room by asking them all about their jobs and how they got there.

After the welcome, everyone was treated to cake and punch while enjoying a keynote address by Robin Stubenhofer. Robin is the Vice President of Engineering at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies. At Honeywell, Robin is responsible for the entire engineering division as well as meeting all the customer deliverables. Robin’s focus was on the importance of networking. Throughout her career Robin has learned the value of networking and encouraged everyone to not take it for granted. You never know who you are going to meet that might be able to help you along your path. Before she closed Robin shared a piece of advice; as you network today, carry a plate with you. Most events like this involve food. You need to learn to hold a conversation while holding something in your hand!

Following the keynote the mentors moved to stations around the room. Every five minutes a different group of girls would rotate through those stations. Competitors were encouraged to ask the mentors about what classes they took in high school, how college was, and what they do daily at their jobs. Girls who were excelling at networking had the opportunity to win a goody bag from the mentors. It was a huge success! Not only did the students get all their questions answered but the mentors had fun interacting with the groups. Everyone had a great time networking and learning more about being a woman in engineering.
Meet & Greets

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 the 2nd week of 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 and this year, we are holding them on different days of the week.

If you keep hoping to have a Meet & Greet near your work or home, now’s your chance to host one! It’s as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Email swe.kc.mail@gmail.com and let us know which month you would like to host
2. Reserve a table for 10 for SWE-KC from 5:30pm-7:00pm
3. Show up, network and take a photo!

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

Joint Meet & Greet with ASCE

On Wednesday, April 8th, SWE-KC and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Diversity & Inclusion Committee hosted a joint Meet and Greet at The Well. The American Public Works Association (APWA), Kansas City Women in Technology (KCWiT), Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) were also invited to attend. Each group gave a five minute presentation on their organization. Over 50 people enjoyed food, networking and door prizes.
## SWE–KC Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 5, 2015</td>
<td>SWE-KC Annual Picnic&lt;br&gt;Franklin Park (8706 Roe Ave., Prairie Village, KS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9, 2015</td>
<td>Meet and Greet/Presentation by author of <em>Girls of Atomic City</em>&lt;br&gt;The Mixx (4855 Main St., Kansas City, MO)&lt;br&gt;Hosted by Katie Lin</td>
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<tr>
<td>July TBD</td>
<td>Meet and Greet&lt;br&gt;Hosted by MaKayla Sprague</td>
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<tr>
<td>August TBD</td>
<td>Meet and Greet</td>
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<td>September 9, 2015</td>
<td>Fellows Reception</td>
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<td>September 11-13, 2015</td>
<td>Region /Leadership Summit&lt;br&gt;Edwardsville, IL</td>
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<td>September 26-27, 2015</td>
<td>National Auto Sport Association (NASA) event with SWE-KC&lt;br&gt;Kansas Speedway</td>
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<td>October 22-24, 2015</td>
<td>WE15 – Annual Conference&lt;br&gt;Nashville, TN</td>
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### Legend of Event Types
- • Volunteering
- ■ Networking
- ♦ Professional Development

## Region /i Update

**100 Club Donations:** Region /i is seeking donations for their scholarship program. In 2015, Region /i awarded two scholarships to collegiate SWE members. In the future, they also hope to award a scholarship to a SWE member currently in graduate school and a SWE member going back to graduate school. The region’s goal is to eventually save enough money to start an endowment fund, so the scholarships will continue to be funded annually. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Region Treasurer at: pam.buzzetta@gmail.com. You can then either mail a check to her or donate via paypal at: http://regioni.swe.org. If you donate $100 or more, you will become a member of the Region /i 100 Club.

**Leadership Summit:** The 3rd annual Region /i Leadership Summit will be held September 11 – 13 at SIUE’s campus, just outside of St. Louis. The Leadership Summit is typically attended by section officers and/or committee chairs. However, it is a great way to learn more about SWE. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com. Region /i is also looking for people to help with the Leadership Summit planning committee. You do NOT have to be located near SIUE to help with planning. Tasks involve speaker selection, food selection, coordinating registration, and more. Contact Katie Lin at klin@kcp.com if you are interested in helping.

**Region /i Leadership:** The FY16 Region /i officers and committee chairs have been elected. The following committee chair positions are currently open: finance, nominating committee, membership, public policy, and data officer. If you are interested in being involved on a region committee or learning more about the positions, please contact Katie Lin at klin@kcp.com.
IGED Sponsors

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5TH ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Members, non-members and their families are invited to join SWE-KC for an evening picnic of food and games!

DATE: JUNE 5TH
TIME: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M
LOCATION: Franklin Park
8706 Roe Ave
Prairie Village, KS
66207

Hotdogs and ice cream will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish to share!

Please RSVP so we have an accurate headcount for the food. RSVP via Signup Genius at:
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4babaa2fa7fb6-swekc/