**SWE-KC President’s Message**

SWE-KC has had a very exciting Spring. In February, we hosted Kansas City’s 6th Annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day event. We had a record number of 281 high school girls in attendance, with 99 professional mentors. We also tried out a new venue, at the Kansas City Convention Center. This venue gave us a lot more space than past events, and we are excited to have a place that we can use for future IGED events with some expansion room as well. I want to thank everyone that made IGED happen, including the planning committee, mentors, discipline fair volunteers, corporate sponsors, teachers, and parents. Each of you helped change lives, and inspire girls to pursue engineering.

Soon after IGED, 7 SWE-KC members traveled to Boulder, Colorado for the 2016 Region i Conference. The conference consisted of speaker sessions, networking opportunities, an awards dinner banquet, and even line dancing! I am very excited to report that SWE-KC rocked the awards banquet, taking home 4 region awards. These awards demonstrate the value that SWE-KC is providing to our members, and how we have continued to be an active, strong section.

- Innovative Award, for the 2015 Fellows’ Reception event with keynote speaker Alana Muller
- Invaluable Award, for Honeywell FM&T as an invaluable benefactor
- Influence Award, for Highest Membership Retention
- Inspirational Award, for Jenna Harpole (Distinguished New Engineer)

In April, we organized the second annual KC STEM Organization Networking Night, with 10 local organizations and over 80 people in attendance! I enjoyed networking with other organization leaders and learning of more ways that we can collaborate in the future.
I am also eager to announce two upcoming new SWE-KC events which will continue to diversify our organization and expand in our focus areas of outreach and professional development. First of all, we are coordinating with Black & Veatch and NAWIC to host a professional development seminar in the evening of August 4, called WE KC: “Succeeding as a Female in Engineering & Construction”. This event will consist of a keynote speaker, several breakout sessions, and potentially offer CEU credits. Secondly, we have started organizing the first annual IGED Junior event, for middle school girls to be held in November 2016. If you are interested in learning more about either of these events, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

As we approach the end of this fiscal year in June, we would like your feedback on how SWE-KC has done this year. If there is anything you think we can improve on, please let us know. We will be transitioning to new officers and planning for FY17 throughout the summer, and would love to incorporate your ideas! I’ve been honored to serve as your section president this year, and have enjoyed seeing how SWE-KC has progressed. I am excited to see what all we can achieve in the coming years!

Katie Lin
SWE-KC FY16 President
### SWE–KC Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/ Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| June 8, 2016 11:30am-1:00pm | Girls in Gear  
Gregg/Klice Community Center (1600 E 17th Terrace, Kansas City, MO) | ![ ]  |
| June 25, 2016 4:00pm-7:00pm 8:30pm | SWE-KC 6th Annual Picnic  
Picnic (Shawnee Mission Park Shelter 7)  
Show (Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park) | ![ ]  |
| July TBD           | Meet & Greet                                                          | ![ ]  |
| August 4, 2016 6:00pm-8:00pm | WE-KC Professional Development Conference  
Black & Veatch (11401 Lamar, Overland Park, KS) | ![ ] ![ ]  |
| August TBD         | Meet & Greet                                                          | ![ ]  |
| October 27-29, 2016 | WE16  
Philadelphia, PA                                                   | ![ ] ![ ] ![ ]  |
| November TBD       | IGED Jr  
UMKC                                                              | ![ ]  |

**Legend of Event Types**
- ![ ] Outreach
- ![ ] Networking
- ![ ] Professional Development

### Region / Update

- **Governance Update:** There is a lot of discussion and information coming regarding governance changes and updates. SWE made a website ([http://societyofwomeneengineers.swe.org/swe-governance-update](http://societyofwomeneengineers.swe.org/swe-governance-update)) available, which had a great FAQ section and a timeline. Several videos have also been made available. Penny Wirsing, FY16 Director of Strategic Initiatives, discusses the Governance Update in the following video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diQW8Ov4mEM&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diQW8Ov4mEM&app=desktop). Be sure to check them out!

- **Region Opportunities:** There are several leadership opportunities available on the region level. This is an excellent opportunity for SWE-KC members to become involved. The following are open committee chair positions whose term will begin in July 2016:
  - Scholarship Chair
  - Membership Chair
  - Mentoring Chair
  - Mini Grant Chair

Anyone interested should contact Jenna Harpole ([jenna.harpole@swe.org](mailto:jenna.harpole@swe.org)).
Professional Development

SWE Region i Conference (iCON16) at Boulder, Colorado

By Sunita Lavin, Katie Lin & Adriana Porter

SWE-KC Officers, Katie Lin, Sunita Lavin, and Adriana Porter, recently attended the SWE Region Conference in Boulder, Colorado. They were joined by a few other members from the Kansas City section, including Una Nowling, Heather Jones, Lauren Rigg and Jenna Harpole (Region Governor), as well as Katie Gonzagowski from the UMKC collegiate section.

Most SWE-KC members missed out on Friday night’s scavenger hunt, as we took a late flight out due to our annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day – it was a SWE-filled weekend! On Saturday morning, the conference officially opened with a keynote address from Kari Fauber, Director of Worldwide Indirect Channels at Keysight Technologies. Kari shared invaluable advice on being a woman in a male-dominated workforce while staying true to yourself. Per usual, we also heard the “State of SWE” presented during our morning banquet. Jessica Rannow, Society President-elect, was in attendance and addressed the SWE Region i members. Some highlights included the new SWE branding, WE local conferences, and the SWE Next program. For more information, check out the “Region i Update” section of the newsletter. The morning festivities ended with the joint Region i meeting, hosted by Region i Governor, Jenna Harpole. We learned that the Tulsa professional section will be hosting the iCON18 conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma!

Several members of the Kansas City section were also speakers at the event. Una Nowling gave an intriguing presentation about her life on both sides of the gender divide (as a male and female in engineering). Her presentation was very eye-opening and she received many compliments afterwards. Katie Lin spoke about some of her career lessons learned, and offered tips on how to start looking for a new job to reignite your career. Adriana Porter, as a member of the Region Leadership Coaching Committee, provided best practices for SWE sections to prevent Leadership Burnout. Heather Jones shared professional development tips for recent graduates including soft skills, the importance of taking initiative, and how to gain independence.

The majority of the iCON16 sessions were 25 minutes, compared to the traditional 50 minute sessions. This allowed conference participants to attend more sessions throughout the day. There were several “tracks” – which included “Be Empowering,” “Be Innovative,” “Be Involved,” “Be Passionate,” and “Be SWE.” Jill Tietjen started the conference sessions with her “Women Who Network Change the World” presentation. This served as a great introduction to the conference, as we had many opportunities throughout the day to network with other Region i SWE members.
One perk of attending the region conference is getting the chance to meet up with other Region i friends and practice networking. Sunita Lavin learned how easy it is to approach our SWE Society-level leaders. She really enjoyed learning about the Spirit Aerosystems’ Employee Resource Group (ERG) from Cindy Hoover, SWE Treasurer and Vice President at Spirit. They discussed some of the similarities and differences between Spirit and Garmin’s ERGs. She also learned a little about the Society Treasurer position. Last, she learned about the Society Senator position from Pam Dingman. The Society Senators travel for 3 meetings a year, one of which is Annual Conference. This year WE16 will be in Philadelphia from Oct. 27-29.

In the evening, we attended the SWE Region Awards banquet. We enjoyed seeing the twitter feed when we walked into the iCON16 dinner full of SWE-KC photos that Sunita had tweeted throughout the day. We were also very excited to find out that our section won 3 awards!

- We received the Region i Influence Award for having the highest membership retention rate (75%) out of all the region professional sections.
- We also received the Region i Innovative Award for the successful 2015 Fellows’ Reception, which included Alana Muller’s presentation about networking as the professional development aspect.
- Last, we received the Region i Invaluable Award on behalf of Honeywell FM&T for being an invaluable financial supporter of SWE-KC and IGED for several years.

Additionally, Region i executive officers and committee chairs were recognized. This included Adriana Porter, who finished her 2-year term as Scholarship Committee Chair and Katie Gonzagowski, who is finishing up her term as Region Collegiate Communications Editor (RCCE). We were also excited to see one of our SWE-KC members and past officers, Jenna Harpole, receive the Region i Distinguished New Engineer Award. Receiving these awards was a great feeling of accomplishment, and it is a sign that our section is strong and has a lot of awesome members!

After the awards banquet, we participated in some line dancing lessons, which was a lot of fun. They even gave us some cowgirl hats to get into the spirit. After the conference, some of us even stayed in Colorado for a day of skiing before heading back to Kansas City. Overall, it was a fun conference filled with networking, sharing, and learning.
Networking

KC Stem Organization Networking Night

The second KC Stem Organization Networking Night took place on Thursday, April 14th at The Well in Waldo. This year’s event was bigger than last year and included the following organizations: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Kansas City Women in Technology (KCWiT), National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), Joint Engineering Council (JEC), Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering (IISE) and Central Exchange Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (WiSTEMM).

More than 80 people attended the event, which featured a brief introduction from each organization, complimentary appetizers and door prizes. We are excited for this annual event to continue to grow next year.
Meet & Greets
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.

Check out these great pictures from our February fundraiser at Jose Peppers and March event with SWE-UMKC at Yogurtini. Hope you can join us soon!

If you are interested in hosting a future Meet & Greet, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

2016 WE–KC Professional Development Conference
SAVE THE DATE!!!!
SWE-KC, Black & Veatch, and NAWIC are partnering together to establish an inaugural Professional Development Conference. The conference is scheduled to commence on August 4th from 5:30 – 9:30 PM. Seating will be limited. Registration will open around the beginning of June. The theme is “Succeeding as a Female in Engineering & Construction”
#wekc #womenengineeringkc #SWEinKC #swebv
IGED 2016

By Amanda Porter

SWE-KC held its 6th annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) at Bartle Hall Convention Center on Friday, February 26, 2016. The event keeps growing making 2016 the biggest one yet with 300 high school girls and 100 mentors in attendance.

This year we revitalized the schedule based off feedback from last year. The most notable changes to the schedule were moving the activity up, so no one missed out having to leave the event early, and ending the day with the college panel as a single group. Based on feedback this year, everyone was enthusiastic about the changes! We still had the morning mingle and engaged our local STEM community. Then the discipline fair and industry/university fair occurred simultaneously. The discipline fair utilizes displays and hands-on demonstrations to explain the various engineering degrees. While the industry fair allows their representatives to explain what type of jobs engineers perform for their companies, and what type of projects each company specializes in.

After that we jumped directly into our hands-on activity Building a Shock Absorbing System for an Astronaut Lander. The goal was to keep the astronauts (marshmallows) inside the lander (paper cup) and design a shock absorbing system to do so, while also being contentious of budget (building materials cost different amounts). The mentors loved bringing budget into the design challenge because it’s a very relatable issue we face daily!

During lunch, we were honored to have Jill Hruby as our keynote speaker. She is the President and Laboratories Director for Sandia National Labs. She shared her story of how she became interested in science and engineering and how she was able to grow her career into what it is today. An amazing and inspiring story!
We ended the day with the college panel, so high school students were able to ask questions directly to college students about school-life-balance providing a peer perspective.

Overall, the event was a huge success. Thank you to all of our mentors, volunteers and sponsors who make this event possible!

We look forward to seeing you next year at IGED 2017!

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**SWEetie Pi**

*By MaKayla Sprague*

On March 11th, SWE-KC hosted the 3rd annual SWEetie Pi Reception at the Regional FIRST Robotics Competition. The reception invites High School girls competing in the competition to take a lunch break, mingle with professional mentors, and hear from a keynote speaker. This year’s speaker was Woody Flowers, founder of FIRST. Woody spoke about the importance of girls in STEM and how our brains are wired to think in creative ways boys would never be able to dream up.

After Woody's speech, the girls rotated through professional women engineers. The mentors shared their stories and answered any questions the girls had about STEM. Everyone left with a clear understanding of how valuable women in STEM are and how FIRST can help shape that future.
SWE-KC congratulates Jenna Harpole, MaKayla Sprague, Kristin Murray, Sunita Lavin, and Tiffany Dooley!

Jenna Harpole received the Region i Distinguished New Engineer Award at iCON16 in February. This award was given to only one professional SWE member. It recognizes someone with less than 10 years of professional experience, who has outstanding technical achievements, and SWE & community involvement. Jenna is very deserving of this award, as she has excelled in her career at John Deere. She has a Six Sigma Black Belt and she often travels across the world to help John Deere sites continuously improve their processes. In SWE, she currently serves as our Region Governor, but in the past, she was the Kansas City Section Representation for two years, and she was an an advisor to our iCON15 Planning Committee. Congratulations Jenna on this notable award!

MaKayla Sprague recently graduated with her Masters of Science in Engineering Management from the University of Kansas, Edwards Campus in Overland Park. The degree is a specialized form of management that helps engineers learn the skills needed to coach, mentor, and motivate technical professionals. MaKayla took night classes for several years to earn her graduate degree while working full time as a manufacturing supervisor at Honeywell FM&T and serving as a SWE-KC Officer. This degree helped MaKayla learn to communicate with technical personnel and senior leadership, a skill which is an invaluable asset at a company like Honeywell FM&T. Congratulations MaKayla on finishing graduate school!

Kristin Murray was recognized by her alma mater, MU College of Engineering, at an awards ceremony on April 27. She received one of the first “1907 Celebration of Women in Engineering” alumni awards. The award is named after the year (1907) that the first woman graduated from Mizzou’s College of Engineering. The nominations were considered on the basis of professional achievement and how they have contributed to the success of other women in engineering. Kristin has been involved in SWE since college and has served as section president in both the Mizzou collegiate section and the Kansas City professional section. At Mizzou and at Honeywell FM&T, she started an outreach event series called Middle School Engineering Projects. She also has since then encouraged thousands of girls to pursue engineering as a career through her creation of the annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day event in Kansas City. Congratulations Kristin, and thanks for all you do to contribute to the success of women in engineering!
Sunita Lavin completed her PMP (Project Management Professional) Certification in April. In order to earn the certification, she had to complete a minimum of 35 hours of project management education, have at least 3 years of non-overlapping project management experience in which she worked over 4500 hours, and pass the 200 question exam. Sunita is a Project Manager in the Aviation Software division of Garmin. She currently manages 7 projects, which includes a critical product that is the “brains” of Garmin’s G5000 glass aircraft cockpit. To prepare for the PMP, Sunita enrolled in a local preparation course over the past few months. Congratulations Sunita on earning this professional certification.

Tiffany Dooley was selected for a Field Electrical Engineer position in Poland. Tiffany’s primary functions included reviewing documents in the electrical discipline for a new Government defense facility which is a highly-complex and unique system to ensure continuous operation and survivability through extreme adverse events. Her participation will be a historical and international significance within the political and military influences around the world for decades to come. In SWE, she currently serves as our Professional Development Coordinator and assisting with our inaugural Professional Development Conference with Black & Veatch and NAWIC. In the past, she was NSBE-KC Professional Chapter President and Black & Veatch Explorer Post Lead Advisor. Congratulations Tiffany on an exciting assignment!

Have someone in mind you would like to recognize? Please let us know of any significant achievements, promotions, or recognition of SWE-KC members at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com. We would love to highlight more women in our next newsletter!

2016 SWE-KC Special Awards

Each year SWE-KC has the opportunity to present special awards at various student competitions in the community. It is a great opportunity to promote SWE and encourage future engineers.

At the 2016 Great Plains Region’s Future City competition in January, SWE-KC’s Tech Savvy Award was presented to the Waterfall Springs team from Chisholm Trail Middle School in Olathe, KS.

At the Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair in April, SWE-KC presented our award to Chloe Trimble from Van Horn High School in Independence, MO for her entry entitled "Using Orange Peel in the Production of Bio-Plastics".

Congratulations to our award winners!
**SWE-KC Sponsors**

![NASA National Auto Sport Association Central Region](image)

**IGED Sponsors**

2016 Gold Level

- Honeywell
- Kiewit

2016 Silver Level

- Burns McDonnell
- Cerner

2016 Bronze Level

- Black & Veatch
- Garmin
- Google Fiber
- Bayer STEM Alliance
- Jed Dunn Construction
- MMC Corp

2016 Friend Level

- HNTB
- Olsson Associates
SWE-KC

6TH ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Members, non-members and their families are invited to join SWE-KC for an afternoon picnic and games! Then, join us at the Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park to watch The Drowsy Chaperone.

When: June 25th, 2016
Picnic: @ 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Shawnee Mission Park Shelter 7
7900 Renner Rd, Lenexa, KS 66219
Show: @ 8:30pm
Shawnee Mission Theater in the Park
7710 Renner Road, Shawnee Mission, KS 66217
(Visit www.theatreinthePark.org to purchase tickets & for information on show)

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

Please RSVP to bring a side dish and so we have an accurate headcount for the food.
RSVP at:
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4BAAAEE22A6FA7-swekc