The Spring Semester started with a bang for the Colorado State University (CSU) section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). The first event was held the evening before the Spring Engineering Career fair and is commonly known as “Evening with Industry.” We are appreciative of our sponsors for this event, URS. Sponsorship money allows student ticket prices to be at a much more reasonable price and results in a spike in attendance. There were a variety of students in attendance who enjoyed a delicious burrito buffet while rotating tables to meet with a number of different recruiters. Freshmen came to have a first-time experience with networking and to learn about working in industry. Upper classmen came to speak with recruiters in a relaxed and familiar setting at the Rio Grande Restaurant.

Another exciting event this year was the SWE Region I (the square root of negative one) Conference. It was held in Columbia, Missouri. The CSU section was able to send four students to this conference. These students attended workshops about professionalism as well as strengthening the CSU SWE section. The Regional Conference allowed the CSU members to network with other students and professional members within Region I. We appreciate the support of Union Pacific Railroad for their travel sponsorship. Their contribution allowed our section to learn and grow with this experience.

This past year, our section has strived to better understand engineering in industry. We have been grateful to have professional speakers and to participate in company tours that allowed us to see first-hand what a job in the industry involves. The SWE section at CSU participated in a tour of Ball Aerospace, where they learned that aerospace is a complex field that requires many fields of engineering to work together.

The general meetings were informative and engaging. Several speakers shed some light on topics that past students quite often wish they knew about before entering the work force. Heather Doty from Ball Aerospace spoke about the importance of job benefits and the excellent impacts of good planning. The knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers from Kiewit talked about making the most of your internship and had a casual question and answer session with the students. The Women in Transportation Seminar held an informative question and answer session about networking.

The CSU SWE section also reached out with the community and partnered up with the Little Shop of Physics, an educational program at CSU. They met with local elementary school girls at the Saturday Morning Engineering Club to show the girls that engineering and science can be exciting and fun. They did activities that related to electricity, magnetism, and many other fundamental concepts in science and engineering.

It was a great Spring Semester for the CSU SWE section, and the CSU SWE section will strive to continue to learn and spread the word that women can be extraordinary engineers and leaders.

To learn more about the CSU SWE section, please visit us at www.engr.colostate.edu/swe.