

CSU Society of Women Engineers

Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 Newsletter

The 2015-2016 school year was great for Colorado State University's section of Society of Women Engineers (SWE). The section enjoyed hosting Evening with Industry, going to the SWE annual conference in Nashville, TN, participating in community outreach, and networking at monthly meetings. In addition, CSU's SWE section continued to focus on enriching members' engineering careers.

Beginning in the fall, President Hannah Mikelson and previous SWE industrial advisor Judy Gates began the CSU SWE Mentoring Program. As a pilot



semester, fall semester mentoring was only open to SWE officers, however due to its great success it was open to all members in the spring. SWE members were matched with professional women engineers in industry based on interests and major. Mentors and mentees were given advice on how to fill these roles, but then took initiative to meet on their own time and shape their own experience. In the spring, all who participated went out to dinner together at Mainline in Old Town to meet others in the program (pictured above). SWE mentees were given great advice and learned a lot from their mentors. The mentor program was a huge success and will continue next year!

On September 30th, 2015 and February 24th, 2016, SWE hosted Evening with Industry (EWI), a networking event, the day before the fall and spring career fairs. Great for both employers and students, the events provided an opportunity for connecting and networking in a more relaxed setting before the fast-paced career fair the next day. SWE is grateful for all the companies that participated in EWI and especially appreciative of our corporate sponsors: IM Flash, Rockwell Automation, Atkins, and Medtronic.

In October, twelve members attended the SWE annual conference in Nashville, TN. Members had a great time attending workshops, networking, and going to the



career fair. Several members received job and internship offers while at the conference! Women gained valuable leadership skills, learned about great resources for our section, and worked on their professional development. The useful knowledge from the conference was brought back to CSU and shared with other SWE members.

In addition to professional development and diversity, outreach is an important part of the CSU SWE section. SWE hosted an engineering night at Shepherdson Elementary and Council Tree Library to promote STEM among middle and high school students. Volunteers did fun activities with the participants that were aimed at teaching basic concepts of science and engineering. Volunteers, students, and parents had a lot of fun!

Between big events, SWE members enjoyed many great presentations at our general meetings. Presentations are a great way for members to network, ask questions, and gain advice from engineers in industry. We enjoyed presentations from Left Hand Brewery, VMware, CSUPD, Atkins, Lockheed Martin, Muller Engineering, City of Fort Collins Traffic Operations, New Belgium Brewery, and Woodward.

SWE also participated in Engineering Days, CSU's weeklong celebration of STEM. SWE had a great time hosting "High Heels and Hardhats,"



an interactive event in which participants wore heels and hardhats and were challenged to navigate through an obstacle course while holding an egg on a spoon. It was a very enjoyable event for both guys and girls!

Colorado State University's SWE section had a fantastic year! We enjoyed beginning a new program, building networking and professional skills, participating in community outreach, and furthering our engineering abilities. SWE is excited to continue activities this fall!

***Please note our website URL has changed!! To learn more about the CSU SWE section or are interested in joining the mentor program, please visit us at <http://coloradostate.swe.org>.