The CSU Society of Women Engineers has demonstrated outstanding passion and leadership throughout its many years as a student organization. When looking back on the 2020-2021 school year, it seems appropriate to assess five of SWE’s most important goals: advocate for women in STEM, foster professional development, build leaders, provide mentorship, and encourage the next generation of women engineers through outreach. Read on to discover how these goals are being fulfilled in CSU SWE and learn how you can contribute!

ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN IN STEM
CSU SWE is comprised of 127 active members, including eleven officers, who collectively represent all engineering majors, and all undergraduate years. As a society, we continually encourage and build each other up through forming friendships, providing resources and mentorships, and empowering women in engineering at CSU and beyond.

One way we empower one another is through our meetings. We have a variety of CSU alumni and industry engineers join us and present about every other week at our general meetings. Although they were held online this past year, we had the privilege of hearing from HP, Kiewit, Seagate, and more. We’ve also had meetings discussing professional development, career building, and gaining confidence.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
We strive to set our members up for success in the professional world. One way we do this is through encouraging professional experience such as internships, co-ops, and research, as well as providing resources to help members seize those opportunities. Each semester, SWE hosts Evening With Industry, a networking event held the night before the fall and spring career fairs, which gives students a unique opportunity to sit down and chat with employers in a more personal and casual setting. This has been the steppingstone that has allowed many of our members to gain work experience during their schooling, as well as gain full-time offers post-graduation.

“I gained confidence in my own value. I gained great advice on how to market myself and reframe "failures" as learning experiences.”
~ SWE Member
LEADERSHIP
In addition to the officer positions, CSU SWE also encourages general members to step into leadership roles. This may include being a "Role Model" for Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, hosting a high school student for Stick With SWE, joining the planning committee for either of those events, and becoming an officer or mentor. It is evident that gaining leadership experience is critical for success, and SWE is an avenue that has successfully cultivated amazing leaders at CSU.

"It’s really reassuring to be able to talk one-on-one with a professional, it helps make choosing and pursuing a career a much less terrifying topic! more than anything, I’ve gained confidence in myself to move forward and start a career.”
~SWE Member

MENTORING
Mentoring is a core value in CSU SWE. Through our professional and peer mentoring programs, women connect with other engineers and receive life-changing support, advice, and friendship. Our peer mentoring program consisted of fifteen pairs of mentors and mentees, who met regularly to contribute to one another's student success. Our professional mentoring program, which connects CSU students to women in the field the student is interested in, had twenty-four pairs of mentors and mentees, who met regularly and discussed topics related to industry, internships, and even shadow opportunities on-the-job!

OUTREACH
Thanks to the leadership and hard work taking place within SWE, the community outside of our organization has been immensely impacted through outreach. Our largest events, Stick With SWE and Introduce a Girl to Engineering are aimed towards girls in the community who express an interest in STEM. Stick With SWE is for high school juniors and seniors who want to shadow a SWE member and see what being an engineering student is like. Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is for middle school students to explore what engineering is, and for us to show them why we love engineering! Even with the pandemic, we managed to hold these events safely and virtually this year, continuing to help our community grow.

CSU SWE'S Outreach Highlights

Stick With SWE
- 30 pairs of shadows and hosts
- High School Juniors and Seniors
- Over 50% of shadows now attend CSU

Evening With Industry
- 100+ student attendees
- 30+ companies recruiting
- Established 2008

Introduction a Girl to Engineering
- 80+ participants
- 20 parents
- 38 volunteers

Would you like to make a donation to CSU SWE to help support our continued efforts? Visit our website at coloradostate.swe.org and click the "Donate to SWE" tab. You'll be redirected to CSU's donation page. In the drop down menu, select "Search" and type in "Society of Women Engineers Associates"