

# CSU Society of Women Engineers Spring 2015 Newsletter

The spring semester was busy for the Colorado State University's section of Society of Women Engineers (SWE). In addition to networking and community outreach, SWE also participated in the Pretty Brainy organization. SWE was focused on providing opportunities that enhanced members' engineering future.

Pretty Brainy is an organization that engages girls in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) fields.



SWE members assist group with the "Marshmallow Challenge."

This spring, SWE collaborated with the Habitat for Humanity and Heidi Orlinger, CEO and Founder of Pretty Brainy in mentoring girls through the program. Participants helped girls design and build an alternative LED

implementation for the Habitat for Humanity House. There were six groups of girls each working on different places that required lighting. Two to three mentors were assigned to each group where they took a "hands off" approach so the girls could truly learn the concepts. For twelve weeks, mentors spent a few hours on Friday afternoons assisting and guiding girls through the program. Some of the things the girls learned about were building circuit boards, working with models, and soldering. Pretty Brainy promotes empowering future women, so SWE was excited to give girls exposure to engineering and build confidence. It was a huge success this year!

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, SWE held their bi-annual Evening with Industry. This event was held at the Rio Grande Restaurant, and Halliburton and Medtronic sponsored the event. Members and other students had the opportunity to meet and network with companies before the engineering career fair the following day. This event was very beneficial for everyone. Recruiters were informative about internships and career opportunities in addition to giving great advice. SWE



SWE officers helped plan and run the successful event.

was grateful for all the companies that came out for the event.

Following Evening with Industry, SWE took part in the regional conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Region i Conference took place from February 27<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. Members had great opportunities to further their skills through workshops and networking. Some of the seminars included were "Create Your Brand" which was learning how to use one's strengths, "STEM Outreach: What's in it for all of us?," "3D Printing: What's the Craze About," and "Market Yourself and Get Noticed." Women were also excited to make friends with SWE members from other universities.



SWE members gained valuable information and experiences.

Outreach is a big part of the SWE section. After having a successful program in the fall at Council Tree Library, it was decided we do our next outreach at a local STEM school, Shepardson Elementary. SWE members read Rosie Revere the Engineer, played Goldiblox, and built Bristle Bots with first graders. Both the kids and SWE members had an enjoyable time! Through our outreach programs, we hope to inspire and engage younger kids. It is also a way for our section to be a part of our community and make a difference.

SWE members also enjoyed many great presentations this past semester. Our general meetings are a wonderful way for us to make connections, ask questions, and be inspired by our guest speakers. This semester we were thrilled to host Keysight, C3E, Colorado State University faculty member Carol Dollard, and career coach Katy Poitrowski. Not only did we get to learn about different companies, we got to hear about other women's experiences in engineering and became familiar with LinkedIn.

Colorado State University's SWE section had a eventful, but great spring semester. We enjoyed participating in Pretty Brainy, making friendships, networking, participating in community outreach, and furthering our engineering skills. SWE is excited to continue with activities next semester!