What can SWENexters do in high school to build engineering skills and prepare for an engineering major in college?

Introducing Lisa Cervia

Welcome to the SWEet Wisdom column! I want to say hello and introduce myself. I am Lisa Cervia and I'll be one of the two SWEet Wisdom reporters this year. I am currently a postdoctoral research scholar at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, pursuing cancer research.

I recently graduated with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University and received a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University. I am very involved in the Biomedical Engineering Community and was the founding president of the Biomedical Engineering Society Graduate Section at Duke University.

I first joined the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) when I was a freshman at Boston University. Throughout the past 10 years, I have participated in many SWE outreach events and mentoring programs. I am now taking on more leadership roles in SWE and am an active member of the K-12 Outreach and Women in Academia Committees. I am excited to be sharing some advice from amazing engineers in SWE! This month, the question is what you can do in high school to build engineering skills that will help you prepare for studying engineering in college.

Katie Selmer

Bioengineering major and President of the George Mason University SWE Section

Take advantage of the classes that your high school has to offer, especially when it comes to Advanced
Placement (AP) courses. Try to familiarize yourself with programs such as AutoCad, Inventor, and Matlab because many of your college classes will require you to work with these. It also doesn't hurt to learn a computer programming language. Make sure you reach out to your advisors and guidance counselors about steps you can take to hone your skills. In the words of Walt Disney, always remember to "Keep moving forward"! Hear more advice from SWE members on our All Together Blog.