

swe **NEXT**



What is your favorite aspect of being a part of the SWE community?

Did you know that there are over 40,000 collegiate and professional SWE members around the world? By being a part of SWENext, you're already starting to learn about all of the benefits of being a part of the SWE community. To give you a look into how staying involved in SWE could help you in college and in your career, we've asked SWE members to share their favorite aspect of being a part of the SWE community!

Kristin Abele

Graduate Student at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo
B.S. in Biomedical/Medical Engineering from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo



SWE is more than just a community; it is a family. I've met some of my best friends through SWE, and everyone in the community is very supportive. SWE also provides a ton of amazing opportunities for both its members and the next generation, such as scholastic resources, networking opportunities and outreach events for younger students. With events geared towards students ranging from elementary school to community college, it is very rewarding to provide younger students with the opportunities to learn and explore all of the different possibilities with STEM. **I love the SWE family because of the opportunities to give back to the community and to help guide the next generation of engineers.**



Amanda Wagner

Senior in Mechanical Engineering at Bradley University

Current Bradley University SWE President

Being a woman in a male dominated field is already scary enough, but I didn't know anyone going into college. At orientation, I was persuaded to check out SWE, and I was intrigued. After going to a few meetings, I had met a bunch of great women that I am still friends with today. **I like that you are able to meet people who are similar to you.** Through SWE, I have had great networking opportunities, enhanced my leadership skills and have even found an incredible internship. I encourage everyone to join their university's SWE section!

Lillie Spackman

Senior in Mechanical Engineering at Calvin University

Current Calvin University SWE President



For me, SWE has been what's kept me on the path to becoming an engineer. Many times, I have thought about dropping out of engineering or switching my major to something that was less technical. Education, psychology, religion? They all seemed easier. Because of SWE, I was able to be surrounded and encouraged by other women in engineering. I've had SWE peers, professors and professionals who looked at me, understood my frustrations and said, "You can do this, it's worth it." Through SWE, I was empowered to lead my peers, to think about them, talk to them and advocate for them in ways I never could have imagined. SWE gives you technical skills, career opportunities and networking potential, but **my favorite part of SWE is easily the community that sees you, knows you, loves you and invests in you.**



Do you have a question for our women engineers at SWE? We'd love to hear from you! Send your questions to swenext@swe.org. We'll answer you, and your question may become a future SWEet Wisdom column!





Chicago, IL 60601

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