



SWE Supports STEM Education and Research for ALL

With more than 37,000 members globally, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) advocates for public policies that promote equity in research and the classroom, foster excellence and access to quality opportunities in the workforce, and ensures that women and girls graduating high school and college leave with the skills and knowledge that support success in their professional, academic and personal aspirations. To that end, SWE supports:

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Technology and math are critical to improve transportation and commerce across America. However improving infrastructure also means nurturing federally-supported basic and applied research that respects the peer-review process at these agencies such as the opportunities authorized through **S.3084 - American Innovation and Competitiveness Act**, passed into law in 2016.

SECURITY

- The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** is on the cutting edge when it comes to securing our borders from cybersecurity threats in the 21st century. However, the tools and training to combat these threats requires real financial support, therefore we request funding at least at the FY 2016 level of \$7.4 billion.

JOBS & EDUCATION

- To be competitive globally, adequate STEM training must start early. Therefore, SWE continues to advocate for adequate funding for the **Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grant program found in Title IV, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act**. This block grant, allocated \$1 billion by the House Appropriations Committee in 2016, includes many STEM programs that are crucial to exposing young women to disciplines that will offer them a foundation in STEM.
- Additionally, the **STEM Opportunities Act** helps ensure that institutions of higher education will track and report on the demographics of their STEM faculty and encouraging innovative approaches to attracting and retaining diverse talent in the research and academic communities needed to close the skills gap.
- Finally, the **Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act** encourages more women to pursue jobs in the aerospace field through **NASA**.

GENDER DIVERSITY

- Studies have shown time and again that diversity improves market shares and provides a competitive edge for businesses and organizations. The **Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act** gives the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** the authority to enact programs focused on recruiting women and supporting them as they develop commercial applications for their laboratory research.
- Ensuring **Title IX protections** that eliminate gender based discrimination are upheld is of great importance to SWE. Non-compliance by federal agencies must be addressed in a meaningful and expeditious manner.
- Last, it is critical that **work/life balance policies** such as equal pay, sufficient maternity and paid family leave, and adequate childcare resources, are provided to keep young parents, particularly female engineers and their families, engaged in the workforce.

ABOUT SWE

Helping Women Aspire, Advance and Achieve in Engineering

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization. SWE is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

SWE Mission

Stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity.

SWE's Strategic Priorities and Programs

Professional Excellence

SWE will develop women engineers at all stages of their personal and professional lives. Current activities, programs, and tools include:

- Online and in-person professional development programming
- The WE Annual Conference with more than 11,000 participants and 308 career fair exhibitors
- WE Local conferences providing the opportunity to network and learn locally both in the US and abroad
- *SWE Magazine*, an award-winning publication on women in engineering
- Work/life integration resources
- Annual awards program recognizing the contributions of women and men at all career stages to the field of engineering

Globalization

SWE will be recognized as a global, inclusive organization, promoting diversity and inclusion and serving women engineers wherever they are. Current activities, programs and tools include:

- Developing women in engineering across geographies, career stage, socio-economic strata and occupational focus through workshops, conferences, roundtables and local affiliate events
- Working with global employers to increase gender diversity and create more inclusive workplaces

Advocacy

SWE will advocate for the inclusion and success of women, present and prospective, in engineering and technology. Current activities, programs and tools include:

- Public policy goals including strengthening STEM education in America's schools and educating policy makers and other professional societies on how Title IX can be applied to STEM fields
- A Society-level scholarship program that each year awards more than \$750,000 in scholarships; many local SWE sections also have scholarship programs
- Dedicated K-12 outreach resources and training materials for outreach volunteers
- Invent It, Build It outreach event for girls in grades 6-12 at the SWE annual conference along with a concurrent program for parents and educators
- Involvement by SWE and its members in programs with Girl Scouts, Girls Inc., Future City Competition, FIRST, local science fairs and local school career days

Organization

The Society of Women Engineers has over 37,000 individual members, approximately 50 percent of whom are collegiate students. The members are multi-disciplinary, coming from all engineering and technology fields. The Society has 300 collegiate member sections and 100 professional member sections in the US, along with international members from over 60 countries.