



SWE Boston Newsletter

A monthly newsletter by the
Society of Women Engineers
Boston Profession Section



Dear SWE Boston Members,

In this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we need science more than ever. Our response as the Boston section of the Society of Women Engineers is to take action:

K-12 Outreach

COVID-19 has shut down schools and taken K-12 students' education online. But guardians may need help tutoring children at home. Arizona State University's SWE section has started a national online tutoring initiative to help continue to educate K-12 students at home. Instead of reinventing the wheel, SWE Boston will join them. Please fill out the forms below:

Form for guardians and people interested in receiving the videos:

<https://forms.gle/5odFM6h3HCqe1vwn8>

Form for educators wanting to help:

<https://forms.gle/dW25naKaYw6zLgAL8>

Another problem is that struggling families, who may have also lost their income during this pandemic, can have trouble keeping their children connected because they can't afford the necessary technology. This is known as the "digital divide". SWE Boston is reaching out to low-income school districts to determine the needs of the community and how we can help with the digital divide.

In the meantime, if your Boston public school student needs access to a Chromebook, please request one

here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoul-p3YNyu7B9VsQaB6f3YUuSBkTaENof-tMEJaiBEjZFDA/viewform>

Professional Development

If you are a SWE Professional who was economically impacted by COVID-19 and you would like our help, please join our LinkedIn Group or use your phone to download our mentoring app on Honeycommb (invitation code 'sweboston'), to network with fellow professionals. You can fill out this form to let us know how else we can help: <http://www.sweboston.org/covid-19-help.html>.

If you work at a company that is currently hiring, SWE Boston is waiving the sponsorship requirement to post open job positions to our LinkedIn Group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1885305> and Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sweboston/>

If you know a SWE Professional who is working to help us overcome COVID-19 (finding treatments, vaccines, a cure, PPE), please fill out the form to identify yourself and let us know how we as a society can help make your life

easier: <http://www.sweboston.org/covid-19-hero.html>

To make a financial donations to local organizations that are engineering solutions to the coronavirus pandemic, please go here: <http://www.sweboston.org/covid-19-donate.html>

SWE Membership

Humans are naturally social so let's stay connected on social media!

- Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sweboston/>
- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SWEBostonSection/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sweboston>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sweboston/>

On our Facebook Group, we have already started a lively discussion about online resources to teach our kids science for free from home. Please join us.



Thank you, everyone, for practicing physical distancing to follow the guidance of the **World Health Organization** for everyone and the **Centers for Disease Control** within the United States. A pandemic is a time where science and full community cooperation is needed the most to positively impact our society. We are all in this together.

Stay tuned for online meetups!

Sincerely,

Chhavi Gupta
SWE Boston President

[Visit our Website](#)

Professional Development Events

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

SWE Boston normally hosts 1 or 2 professional development events every month, with a speaker and dinner provided by a company sponsor. The March Professional Development event at SharkNinja was cancelled with a chance of rescheduling. All future professional development events are to be determined, whether they will be hosted virtually or rescheduled for a future date in-person.

K-12 Outreach Events

Upcoming SWE Boston Outreach Opportunities

Come help us for a few hours or a whole day, meet other SWE members who love to give back, earn some points (1 hour = 1 point) and collect a prize at our Banquet in June!

Many events have been cancelled during what is typically SWE Boston's busiest month of April, but there is still an opportunity to contribute virtually by helping to plan future events and/or being an online Fixit Coach! See below for details on that and all cancelled events.

Friday, April 3rd, 5-7:30PM, Essex: Essex Elementary STEM Night
POSTPONED. New date TBD.

Saturday, April 4th, 9AM-12:30PM, Mansfield: Mansfield STEM Expo
POSTPONED until Fall 2020. Thank you to Tulika Hainsworth for planning!

Sunday, April 5th, 9AM-3:30PM, Wentworth (Boston) - Jr. Tech Girls' STEM Summit
POSTPONED. New date TBD (possibly moving to a virtual conference in June). Thank you to Julie Penn for planning!

Thursday, April 16th, 8-10:30AM, Dedham: Dedham HS Career Fair
CANCELLED

Saturday, April 18th, 11AM-3PM, Framingham: Science on State Street Festival
CANCELLED

Saturday, April 25th, 12-4PM, Cambridge: Cambridge Science Festival
CANCELLED. Thank you to Anita Gajjala and Jess Yeager for planning!

Saturday, May 2nd, 10AM-2PM, Dorchester: Latino STEM Alliance Science Festival
CANCELLED. Thank you to Wendy Thompson for planning!

Fix-It Clinics - newly virtual!

Help community members repair their broken household items and promote a culture of reusing as opposed to wasting.

Sign up to be a coach at a virtual Fixit Clinic using teleconferencing software.

Use your STEM skills to contribute to the new need for "rapid response repair" for medical equipment, laboratory and diagnostic equipment or emergency service equipment (along with any other shared equipment: it might be as mundane as the toaster oven in the hospital staff break room or the hospital's floor polisher).

Sign up for either opportunity at <http://bit.ly/fixitcoachsignup> and choose "Virtual Fixit Clinic" and/or "Rapid Response Repair". Please indicate where you're located in the "Anything special about your participation?" field. More details at www.fixitclinic.org.

SWE Merit Certificates:

The Boston and Southern NH sections of the Society of Women Engineering are accepting nominations from middle and high school faculty and staff for Merit Certificates, a non-monetary award recognizing female students for 3+ years of excellence in math and science. Not sure if your school is on the annual contact list? Email KWolfe@geiconsultants.com.

Please share with your STEM educators!

Boston area schools:

<http://tinyurl.com/SWEBoston2020>

Southern NH schools:

<http://tinyurl.com/SWESNH2020>

Email our VP of Outreach Ellie Marois at outreach@sweboston.org if you are interested in helping out with any events and/or being a part of our Outreach Committee (2 meetings and a handful of emails per year).

SWE Membership Events

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

SWE Boston normally hosts 1 brunch every month where we meet in a casual fun place and network with members and non-members alike. The March Craft Event at Michael's was cancelled due to the pandemic.

All future SWE Membership events are to be determined.

SWE Boston has decided to forego our 70th Anniversary Party this year, and instead we plan to celebrate our 75th Anniversary in 2025.

Recent Events

2/29: Blue Lobster Bowl (MIT)



2 SWE Boston members were among the 63 volunteers that ran this ocean-themed quiz bowl tournament. Volunteers had roles such as timekeeper, scorekeeper, rules judge and science judge.

Unfortunately our other 2 scheduled March events were cancelled/postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers that signed up, and especially to those that spent so much time planning these events for SWE Boston!

3/12/20 Wakefield Explore STEAM Night: Thanks to Allison Morlock for planning! Save the date - the new date for this event is October 15th.

3/14/20 GSEM STEM Conference and Expo: Thanks to Kristine Murphy, Fay Shaw and Wendy Thompson for planning!

Ongoing Programs

Honeycombb Mentoring App

Join SWE Boston's mentoring program!

This is where SWE Boston members come together to support each other to meet specific goals or troubleshoot specific problems. Download the Honeycombb app on your smartphone, enter the invitation key 'sweboston' without the quotation marks, or go to our URL:

<https://sweboston.honeycombb.app>



SWENext Youth Program

SWENext is SWE's Youth Program, a way to become part of the Society of Women Engineers as a K-12 student, through the age of 18. Become part of SWE and #BeThatEngineer! Joining is free.

Learn more at the link below:

<https://swe.org/k-12-outreach/youth-programs/>

Thanks to our Organizers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Chhavi Gupta - president@sweboston.org
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (Professional Development): Casey Corrado - pd@sweboston.org
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (Outreach): Elizabeth Marois - outreach@sweboston.org
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT (Membership): Tanvi Devimane - membership@sweboston.org
RECORDING SECRETARY: Michelle Garofalo - record@sweboston.org