

The Gear

Serving the 488 Members of the SWE-WI Section

Jan - 2025

SWE-WI Holiday Festivities

SWE-WI members celebrated the holidays in December in-person and through creativity! Several handmade ornaments were exchanged during the annual SWE-WI ornament exchange. Special thanks to Andrea Falasco for coordinating!

Thanks to everyone who came out for the SWE, Sweaters, and Sips meetup on December 18th, 2024! The group had a great time at The Ruby Tap in Wauwatosa comparing festive sweaters, trying different wines, and enjoying conversation with SWE-WI members ahead of the holiday season.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate a future SWE meet and greet in your area, reach out to Natalie Gamez (natalie.m.gamez@gmail.com) or Kyela Specht (kyelaspecht@gmail.com)!



2024 SWE-WI Ornament Exchange

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Key Upcoming Events

- Goal Setting Lunch Discussion – Virtual – 2/7 11:30AM
- Green Bay Networking – Green Bay, WI – 2/20 4:30 PM
- 2025 WE Local Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI – 3/14-3/15

Stay up to date on all SWE-WI events at our [Google Calendar \(link\)](#)

2025 WE Local Milwaukee

2025 WE Local registration is now **open!** The last day for early bird registrations for the Milwaukee conference is 2/14, so don't delay and save by signing up today!

Kicking off on Pi Day, attendees at WE Local Milwaukee are sure to enjoy the various Pi themed activities interspersed between the keynotes, professional development, workshops, and networking you find at any SWE conference. Take advantage of this awesome SWE event in Wisconsin and spread the word to others so we can each learn from and be inspired by the best women in STEM!



2025 WE Local Milwaukee is planned by the Local Host Committee (LHC) in conjunction with other SWE volunteers and SWE HQ. Many SWE-WI members are part of the committee, and the **LHC Chair, Milwaukee** is SWE-WI member Heidi Balestrieri.

2025 WE Local Milwaukee **Keynote Speakers**



Opening Keynote (3/14)
Paula Davis Lampley, Esq. BSEE

Bloom Where You are Planted



Closing Keynote (3/15)
Cindy Hoover

Forge Your Own Path: Navigating
Career Success on Your Terms

#WELOCALMILWAUKEE



March 14th - 15th, 2025
welocal.swe.org/milwaukee/

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

- 9:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS
- 10:00 AM OPENING KEYNOTE
- 11:00 AM PROGRAM SESSIONS
- 1:00 PM NETWORKING LUNCH
- 2:00 PM PROGRAM SESSIONS
- 4:00 PM WE LOCAL CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

- 9:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS
- 10:00 AM TOGETHER WE RISE PANEL DISCUSSION
- 11:00 AM PROGRAM SESSIONS / CAREER FAIR
- 1:00 PM NETWORKING LUNCH
- 2:00 PM PROGRAM SESSIONS
- 4:00 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE



WE Local Milwaukee will take place at **Milwaukee Marriott West**, W231 N1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha, WI, 53186

2025 SWE Wisconsin Scholarship

Scholarship Judges Needed

Seeking any professional SWE members willing to assist in reviewing collegiate scholarship applicants. This activity will be conducted virtually via conference calls & email, so this is a great opportunity to help our future women engineers in a short-term activity, regardless of geography. Overall time commitment should take no more than about 5 hours in total. The judging period will be from 2/7 through 2/17, with optional online training offered live (2/6 & 2/11) or via recording.

If interested, please contact Gretchen Borden, Scholarship Chair, by **January 31st**, at swewisconsin.scholarships@gmail.com

Scholarship Application Deadline Jan-31st

Applications found online: <https://forms.gle/2xXtW4XdTCaHKC5t6>

To be eligible, applicants must be:

- full-time undergraduate college student, sophomore (second year of college) standing or higher, graduating after December 31, 2025,
- female or identify as female,
- pursuing an engineering degree in an ABET-accredited program at one of the following universities:
 - Carthage College
 - Lake Superior State University
 - Marquette University
 - Michigan Technological University
 - Milwaukee School of Engineering
 - Northern Michigan University
 - University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (materials science & engineering)
 - University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
 - University of Wisconsin - Madison
 - University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 - University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
 - University of Wisconsin - Platteville
 - University of Wisconsin - River Falls (agricultural & environmental engineering)
 - University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
 - University of Wisconsin - Stout
 - Viterbo University

Awarded scholarship funds will be paid directly to the college and must be applied to college tuition, fees, and books or equivalent.

Previous SWE-WI scholarship recipients are not eligible. Learn more about [SWE-WI scholarships online](#).



SWE Wisconsin has been recognized for a FY24 Bronze Mission Award! Mission awards recognize SWE groups that embody SWE core values and demonstrate continuous improvement and growth as they work to achieve the Society's strategic goals. You can learn about all FY24 Mission and Multicultural Recipients in the 2024 Conference edition of SWE Magazine, also found online here: [FY24 Mission & Multicultural Recognition](#).

SWE-WI Needs Your Input!

FY25 Mid-Year Feedback Survey

SWE-Wisconsin is looking for feedback on communications, event planning, and interest in officer positions and event planning. Please take 5 minutes to fill out this form to get the most out of SWE-WI! We appreciate your feedback 😊

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKqAcOrimqyy70gyO7iQp4-tMWsrnygOvEK-EkkpU1HiYNyg/viewform>

SWE-WI Internal Awards Nominations Open!

Nominations are open for SWE-WI internal awards! Nominate members who have made an impact on the section, a collegiate section for their achievements, or a company that has provided significant support this year! Submit nominations through this link by Friday, February 14th, 2025 at 11:59pm CST. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKGW2TZ>

Most Valuable Person (MVP) Award	Outstanding New Member Award
This award is open to any SWE-WI section member, except the current president. This award recognizes someone who was instrumental in at least one of the successes of our section in FY25.	This award is open to any SWE-WI section member who has stepped up to become a valuable asset to the section and shown impressive leadership skills, dedication, success, and/or initiative. This nominee must be a new member to SWE-WI, joining the section within the past five years.
Significant Corporate Support Award	Collegiate Section Achievement Award
This award is open to any company or corporate organization. This award recognizes an organization that has provided significant support to SWE-WI in FY25. Examples of support include financial donations, in-kind donations of speakers, products, or services, or involvement in a section activity or tour.	This award is open to any of the collegiate sections in the SWE-WI geographic area. This award recognizes a collegiate section that reached a section goal within FY25.



SWE Wisconsin is on the 'Gram! Follow the new SWE Wisconsin Instagram account to keep up with the latest happenings throughout the section, and share your SWE Wisconsin news on social media!

[@swe_wisconsin](https://www.instagram.com/swe_wisconsin)

Goal Setting Workshop

Join SWE-WI as part of the virtual lunch call series for a goal setting workshop on February 7th at 11:30AM – 12:30PM CST. No matter where you are on your career journey, well-designed goals will help you get to your destination.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://swe-org.zoom.us/j/89568430608?pwd=P9bxAdNjNIEkEFUG99ra0YP4k9Pd2R.1>
Meeting ID: 895 6843 0608
Passcode: 894579



Kathleen Romaine, a Career Development Coach at Range Light Coaching and Consulting, will talk to us about long and short term goals and how they work together (and why you need both).

If you are looking for some ideas on how to spark your big-picture thinking, please review the worksheets included on SWE-WI site [here](#).

Are you interested in defining what you want now and how you will achieve your long-term aspiration? Take a look at the personal mission statement worksheet.

Would you like to identify ways to build on your strengths or tackle your greatest challenges? Maybe it's time for a SWOT analysis.

Do you know what you want/need to do, but are having trouble getting started for figuring out how it works together? Chart it out in the Development Plan.

To maximize our one hour together, please bring into the workshop (at least) one area of your professional life on which you would like to focus/build a goal (or goals) around.

The remaining FY25 virtual discussion topics held during the lunch hour are:

- 4/11/25 – Traveling for Work
- 6/13/25 – Parenting Tips and Tricks

Contact Andrea (awfaldasco@gmail.com) if you would like the Zoom call info.

SWE-WI Advertisement Information

Are you a company looking to show your support of SWE-WI, advertise on our website or in our newsletter, or post a job opening? If so, we want to hear from you! If you are interested, please find additional details and fill out the contact form on our corporate involvement page of the SWE-WI website:

<https://wisconsin.swe.org/corporate-involvement/>

Green Bay Networking Event

Join Green Bay SWE-WI members for a networking event on Thursday, February 20th, from 4:30-6pm in downtown Green Bay at the Titledown Tap Room. If you have any questions, you can contact [Katie](#). Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in helping to coordinate a future SWE meet and greet in your area, reach out to Natalie Gamez (natalie.m.gamez@gmail.com) or Kyela Specht (kyelaspecht@gmail.com)!



Join the SWE Wisconsin LinkedIn Group to keep up with the latest happenings throughout the section, and share your SWE Wisconsin news on social media!

[Society of Women Engineers - Wisconsin](#)

SWE-WI Outreach Opportunities

Be That Engineer!

Engineering Role Model Volunteers needed for two opportunities:

Glen Hills Middle School STEAM Fair Saturday, December 14 from 9am-1pm SWE-WI would like to have a booth, we need volunteers to make it happen. If you are interested and can volunteer, please contact swewioutreach@swe.org

Sheboygan area Girl Scout troop reached out and would like SWE-WI engineers to come and talk to their troop. Exact dates and times to be decided with the first people to volunteer. This would be a great way to celebrate Engineer's Week in February! Contact swewioutreach@swe.org for more details.

Coming Soon: [Certificate of Merit](#) program open to all High Schools in Wisconsin & UP Michigan.

Upcoming Outreach Events:

- February 22, 2025 – ASCE STEM Expo in Milwaukee
- April 25, 2025 – EMDC National Competition in Waukesha
- May 2, 2025 – Contract Judging in Milwaukee (9am -12pm)
- May 9, 2025 - Contract Judging in Waukesha (9am -12pm)

Keep an eye on the weekly e-blast for updates as these events get closer or contact swewioutreach@swe.org for more details!

**SWENext
Membership**



SWENext is a way to become part of SWE as a student through the age of 18. Joining is free, any student 13 or older can become a SWENext on their own, for those younger than 13, a parent will need to be the primary contact. When registering for SWENext use event code: **Wisconsin**
Learn more about SWENext visit: <https://swe.org/k-12-outreach/swenext-2/>
For any SWENext questions, contact: outreach@swe.org

SWE-WI Outreach Policies

Outreach Volunteer Notice

SWE has implemented a Youth Protection Policy. This year to be a volunteer at a SWE-WI sponsored event you must have completed the Youth Protection course and provide a SWE Certificate to the organizer.

Please consider taking the youth protection course early and sending SWE-WI a digital copy of your certificate. This course will need to be taken every three years. To access the course, or for more information please visit <https://swe.org/youthprotection/>

Outreach Involvement

If you have been involved in an outreach event and are a SWE member, send information about the event to Heidi Balestrieri at swewioutreach@swe.org so we can report the information in the SWE outreach tool.

Information needed for the report: event name, date, all SWE sections that were involved, description of event, breakdown of girls and boys who participated, age of students, number of adult guests, number of SWE member volunteers, number of other volunteers, any partner organizations involved, or any other information to share.

Girl Scout STEM Badges

Would you be interested in working with a Girl Scout Troop and introducing a girl to engineering? The Girl Scouts have introduced new engineering and STEM badges and troops are looking for engineers who would be willing to help them earn these badges. For information on how to be involved, project ideas, and how to find a troop contact swewioutreach@swe.org



Follow the SWE Wisconsin Facebook page to keep up with the latest happenings throughout the section, and share your SWE Wisconsin news on social media!

SWE-Wisconsin

SWE Resource Spotlight

Did you know that SWE has their very own podcast focused on empowering women engineers called Diverse?

Episode 295 – Sisterly Advice: Engineering Execs Share Keys to Success discusses the technical track and management track in engineering from the unique perspective of two electrical engineer sisters. Take advantage of this SWE curated content by adding this or other episodes from the Diverse podcast to your listening feed.

You can learn more about Diverse: a SWE Podcast Pioneering Inclusive Change in STEM on the SWE [website](#).



SWE's Advance Learning Center

Did you know that your SWE membership gets you premier access to SWE's Advance Learning Center? This includes free and discounted content on a wide variety of topics including DEIB, technical innovations, career management & development, CEU/PDH courses, and more!

Check out [SWE's Advance Learning Center](#) today with your SWE login.

FY25 Mid-Year Strategic Planning Meeting

FY25 EC Board, Chairs, & Committee Members

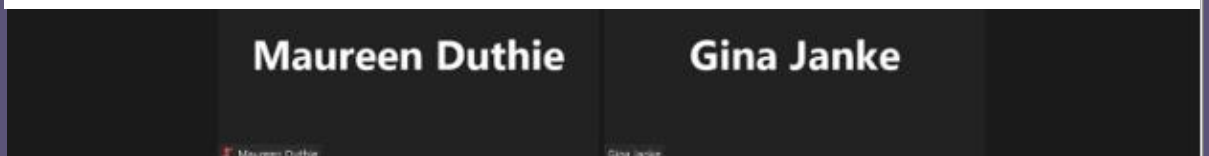
SWE-WI FY25 Executive Council (EC) Board, Committee Chairs, and Committee members convened both virtually and in Hartland, WI for the mid-year strategic planning meeting on January 12th, 2025. The group reflected on the goals set out for FY25, progress through the first half of the fiscal year, and where to focus to finish out FY25 strong in the second half.

If you are interested in getting more involved with SWE-WI now or as we begin planning for FY26, check out the different elected positions, chairs, and committee roles on the [SWE-WI FY25 Org Chart](#) and/or reach out to SWE-WI Section President Kyela Specht for more details. SWE-WI thrives with a strong leadership pipeline, and there are roles of many different levels of commitment to fit any interested member!

Natalie Gamez, Katie Buchalski, Kyela Specht, Susan Schlett, Michele Dodez, and Sam Billedeaux



Michal Riege, Andrea Falasco, Gina Janke, Emily Demchik, Heidi Balestrieri, and Maureen Duthie via Zoom



FIRST Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know that SWE has been a **Strategic Alliance Partner** of **FIRST** since 2008? This partnership has helped both organizations promote STEM to young people and promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields.

There are many FIRST event volunteer opportunities throughout the state! To volunteer at any of these events, follow the **FIRST Volunteer Registration Guide**.

FIRST LEGO League Explore

- 2/1/25 – Brookfield, WI
- 3/15/25 – Milwaukee, WI
- 3/22/25 – La Crosse, WI
- 4/12/25 – Wauwatosa, WI

FIRST Tech Challenge

- 1/25/25 – Madison, WI
- 2/1 – 2/2/25 – Brookfield, WI
- 2/8/25 – La Crosse, WI

FIRST Robotics Competition

- 3/19 – 3/22/25 – La Crosse, WI
- 3/27 – 3/29/25 – Mukwonago, WI
- 4/3 – 4/6/25 – West Allis, WI



For more information about FIRST opportunities in the state, check out the **FIRST Wisconsin website**. Volunteer at a FIRST event? Let swewioutreach@swe.org know!

SWE-WI Newsletter Entries

Send us your stories! We want to see what our professional SWE-WI and affiliated collegiate SWE members are up to! We are looking for events that SWE has hosted, member milestones, interesting articles/books to share, and more! If you have something you want to see in the newsletter, please fill out the following Publicity Request Form and check 'The Gear Newsletter'.

SWE-WI Publicity Request Form: <https://forms.ale/CztavtTXYQB2hK6JA>