

## About SWE

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization that promotes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women and helps women achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders. The Society has an international membership that totals over 18,000, with members belonging to one of the more than 100 professional and 300 collegiate SWE sections.

### National Website

[www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org)

The Philadelphia Section is part of SWE Region E, the Mid-Atlantic Region, which includes 12 professional sections and over 50 collegiate sections located in eastern Pennsylvania, the western half of New York, and all of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

### Region Website

[www.swe.org/RegionE](http://www.swe.org/RegionE)

SWE-Philadelphia, one of the four founding sections of the national SWE organization, currently encompasses all of southeastern Pennsylvania east of the Susquehanna River. The section has over 100 members, including both professionals and students in engineering schools that do not yet have a collegiate section. Several members work and/or live in neighboring areas in the Lehigh Valley, southern New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. SWE Collegiate Sections in our area are located at DeVry University of Fort Washington, Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, and Widener University; there is also a SWE Interest Group at Messiah College.

### Section Website

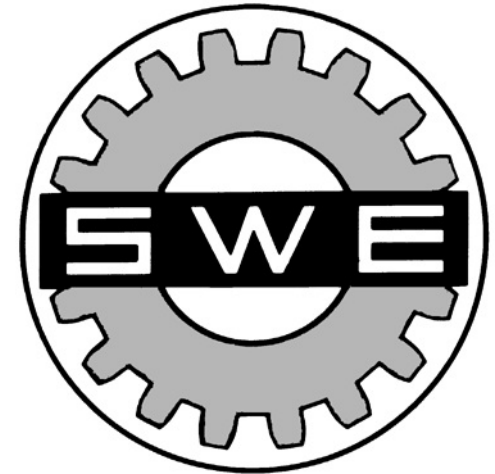
[www.philaswe.org](http://www.philaswe.org)

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## Society of Women Engineers

### Philadelphia Section 2008 - 2009



**ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE**

### Mission

Establish engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women and

empower women to succeed and advance in their aspirations and to be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

Website: [www.philaswe.org](http://www.philaswe.org)

E-mail: [phila\\_info@swe.org](mailto:phila_info@swe.org)

## *Student Outreach Programs*

SWE-Philadelphia members participate in several local programs to encourage young women to pursue studies in engineering, scientific, and technical fields. SWE members give engineering presentations, conduct workshops, serve as judges for various student competitions, and present SWE awards.

On-going efforts include:

- Conducting the **Widener University-SWE Engineering Mini-Camp** for high school girls and their parents. This year is the 10th anniversary of this program that permits each girl to experience four of 17 different hands-on workshops while parents attend sessions on what to expect should their daughter decide to study engineering. SWE members from the Philadelphia, DelMar Peninsula, and Widener Collegiate Sections, and Widener graduates and professors lead the workshops and discuss their engineering experience with the girls and their parents. Participation in the camp, which is held on the Widener University campus, now numbers more than 150 girls and over 100 parents.

- Serving as administrative coordinators and judges for the **Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition** for teams of 7th and 8th grade students from the area.

- Providing hands-on engineering workshops at the **AAUW Discover the Future Program** for middle school students.

- Serving on the **Container Design Project Review Board** to evaluate product designs developed by teams of calculus students at Archbishop Ryan High School.

## *Student Outreach, Continued*

- Participating in the national **SWE Certificate of Merit Program** to recognize high school girls who have demonstrated three years of excellence in their math and science courses and who are active in their school, church, or community. In FY08, we awarded 234 Certificates of Merit to girls from 82 schools within our section area.

- Serving as **Science Fair judges** and providing **SWE-Special Awards** for the local Bucks County and regional Delaware Valley Science Fairs (DVSF) competitions. The SWE awards are made to girls in grades 6 to 12 who have the best engineering or engineering-related projects; 30 students were recognized in FY08.

- Participating in **Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania** Programs to conduct hands-on engineering and computer workshops and to serve as panel members in career option events.

- Serving as **SWE Counselors** for the SWE Collegiate Sections in our area.

- Providing **Scholarship Awards** to full-time college students enrolled in engineering or computer science programs at ABET-accredited schools within our area. Ten awards of \$1000 each were made in FY08.

New activities include:

- Participating in the **Engineer Your Life** program sponsored by **National Engineers' Week Foundation** to encourage college-bound girls to consider enrolling in engineering schools.

- Supporting the all-female FIRST Robotics team from Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

## *Professional Development*

SWE provides opportunities for women to develop and enhance their leadership, organization, and communication skills. Members may participate in professional development programs offered in on-line Web Seminars, workshops and seminars at the National and Region conferences, and local events hosted by SWE sections. Professional skills may be developed and improved by serving in SWE leadership and committee positions and participating in SWE activities at the local, region, or national level.

SWE Section meetings provide opportunities for members and guests to learn more about SWE, the Philadelphia Section, and each other. Types of meetings include:

- Annual Fall Kick-Off Meeting
- Technical Presentations
- Professional Development Presentations
- Joint Meetings with Other Professional Organizations
- Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner
- Holiday Event
- Technical Tours

SWE also provides an opportunity for joint membership with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Hispanic Engineers (SHE).

### *Contact Information*

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