

2018 Women in Science & Engineering Conference
Engaged. Empowered. Excellent.
Saturday, March 3, 2018

Workshop Sessions

Session #1

1. Demystifying Graduate School: Why Apply, How to Get Accepted, and Finding Funding!

Considering graduate school? Does the prospect feel overwhelming and exhausting? A panel of engineering advisors and graduate students will help you understand why students apply to MS or PhD programs, and how to begin preparing for graduate school. We will provide useful data gathered from UW Engineering faculty on what you can do to improve your chances of admission, how to write an effective Statement of Purpose and Personal Statement, as well as how to obtain meaningful Letters of Recommendation. We will also provide valuable information on funding your graduate education, and will leave you with insights on how to be successful during your first year as a graduate student.

(Audience: Collegiate, Professional)

2. 5 Strategies to Profit from Your Curiosity.

Remember: Left Brain thinking can be out-sourced to machines. Creativity cannot be! This session will open ways to expand your thinking, provide exercises to utilize the resources you have more effectively, and encourage you to use resources you may not have used in the past. You will discover new ways to stimulate different parts of your brain, reach outside of your standard circle to invite in new perspectives, build competitive products and develop new approaches to old processes. Learn how to integrate diverse perspectives to attract more clients, and create a network to empower your effectiveness.

(Audience: All)

3. Networking Without Networking: Connecting Authentically.

Connecting Authentically: Have you ever been told that you should be networking with others to get internships and jobs after school? Does standing in a room full of strangers sound somewhere on the spectrum of unpleasant to terrifying? Do you feel like you have to be a certain way at work or to find work? Come learn how to build your network by expanding existing relationships and creating meaningful new ones, all while staying true to yourself.

(Audience: All)

4. Step into the Science World with Impact.

Science education and training can open many doors from academia to industry careers (government, medical, education, etc.). Come meet a panel whose excitement and passion for science became the foundation of their careers. Learn about the many areas of science careers available to you and points to consider when choosing a science pathway built for you. Panelists will share necessary skills, research, and activities that contributed to their success. In addition, share how technology is evolving the practice of science. Women engaged and empowered with their passion for science inspiring future scientist to make mighty impacts.

(Audience: All)

5. Stories and Advice from Scholars and Industry Professionals.

You are on your way... You have learned to balance the demands of life and school. You challenge yourself to master each obstacle you meet. You are looking for that next opportunity to get closer to the career that inspires you. Now, how do you find a great mentor to help guide you? Finding a mentor who has the capacity and capability to lead you toward success can feel unattainable. In fact, for many women in STEM, finding a mentor can be challenging. In this workshop, you will gain insight on how to approach and ask industry professionals to be your mentor as well as hear experiences from our panel of scholars and mentors.

(Audience: Collegiate, Professional)

6. Strategies to Resist and Undo Bias in School and the Workplace.

Putting forth the best of you. This workshop will facilitate a dialogue for women in different science and engineering fields to share how to identify gender bias in the workplace or at school. Participants will be able to understand the impacts bias can have on their careers or performance in those areas, and strategies to resist or undo bias.

(Audience: All)

Session #2

1. A View from the Top: Succeeding in Small Companies.

Do you envision a career away from academia? Does industry seem appealing? Want to start your own company or work in a start-up? There are challenging and rewarding opportunities for scientists and engineers in companies involved with drug development, engineering and science education. Come hear from women who are leading small, start-up STEM companies. Take away a better picture of the skills needed to thrive in industry, as well as the unique skills and mind-set for founding or working in a start-up company.

(Audience: All)

2. Be Tenacious. Be Relentless. Be YOU.

Why is mentoring imperative for individuals in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)? Learn about how Janet, raised by refugee parents from Vietnam, grew up underprivileged, and became the first in her family to go to college. She will share with you examples of how she used her tenacity and leveraged mentoring to land a career in global technology consulting among the breathtaking Swiss Alps today! Get tips on finding and cultivating a meaningful, quality mentoring relationship to navigate your STEM career.

(Audience: All)

3. Careers in Engineering: Unlimited Borders and Boundaries.

The places you can go and the things you can do! A panel diverse in engineering backgrounds will share how they are using their degrees in the workplace. Panelists will describe what it means to be an engineer and how you can become one. They will share experiences, practices, and lessons that have helped them build a rewarding and innovative career as a professional engineer.

(Audience: All)

4. Creating a Stand-Out CV: Translating Your Research Experience Beyond the Ivy Walls.

Are you a dedicated researcher who wants to transition into the workforce beyond academia? When you begin to pursue career opportunities, how do you translate this significant investment of your time and energy into skills an employer is looking for? This workshop will offer a brief tutorial for creating your CV or resume. A panel of industry and research professionals will share their transition experiences from academia to industry. Attendees actively involved in research should leave this workshop with a better understanding of how to communicate effectively their research experience to future employers.

(Audience: Collegiate-Graduate Students)

5. Debunking Stereotypes: Why the Image of Computer Science Matters.

This presentation will address the gender disparities and stereotypes that exist in STEM fields, specifically computer science and engineering. We will examine how people choose careers, and how stereotypes can influence those choices. Come learn about stereotypes of computer science, the reality of computer science, and why these current stereotypes can be barriers to inclusion in the field. We will also present on why some STEM fields such as biology and chemistry are more gender balanced than others. We will conclude by talking about research in psychology and its relevance to understanding and solving pressing social issues.

(Audience: All)

6. Lightning Talks:

Join in this showcase of exciting and new ideas. Presenters will give a brief overview of an exciting STEM project, topic or research. Each speaker will have approximately 15 minutes to present and then an additional five minutes to address audience questions.

(Audience: All)

The ABCs of Personal Professional Development

A is for Action. B is for Brand. C is for curiosity. Come discover key life learnings and strategies Amanda has learned throughout her career in research, financial services, and technology.

The Transition: College to Careers

The transition from college to career is always a challenging one to navigate. The presenters will share lessons learned and things they wish they knew upon graduation from school as they began their careers. Provide tips and advice about choosing a career. Reflections on overcoming obstacles they have faced as women in STEM, and offer resources they found to be supportive for success in their field.

Research in Action: LIGO and the New Era of Gravitational Wave Astronomy

Recent discoveries of black hole mergers and the collision of neutron stars by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) have opened up the era of gravitational wave astronomy and multi-messenger astronomy. The Advanced LIGO detectors are currently being upgraded in preparation for their third observing run (O3), looking forward to more gravitational wave detections including the possibility of the first un-modeled gravitational wave signals. The historic first detections of gravitational waves have opened a new way to study our universe, with discovery potential across the entire gravitational wave spectrum.

Session #3

1. How to Leverage Mentorships, Internships, and Sponsorships for STEM Career Success.

Participants will engage in a conversation that will result in greater understanding of best mentoring, internship, and sponsor practices. These practices can help women in STEM achieve their career goals by strategically connecting and building beneficial relationships with professionals along the way. Participants will leave better equipped to not only navigate the STEM education, training, and career maze, but also change the maze to be more inclusive and multicultural.

(Audience: All)

2. Keeping Sane - Work-Life Balance Through Your Career.

These days the line between work and leisure can become blurry. Come ask questions of a panel of civil and structural engineers about how to keep yourself sane while working in the high stress world of science and engineering. We will focus on the importance of setting boundaries and explain where we have found success or difficulties in our own careers in order to avoid work life "imbalance".

(Audience: Collegiate, Professional)

3. Modern Day Career Development: How to Navigate Through an Modern Workforce.

Come learn about critical elements of professional development for your present or future STEM career. Learn strategies and pointers on how to apply them to today's modern and continually evolving workforce. Join a diverse panel of women in STEM who will share their real-life experiences that have influenced this toolkit for career development.

(Audience: All)

4. Navigating the Balancing Act of Priorities and Time.

A work-life balance is talked about frequently but always seems to be just out of reach. This workshop geared towards the graduate student, continues the conversation for delineating between work and other responsibilities. Hear from a panel of men and women about how they define work-life balance and what that looks like for them. Intended to provide attendees with examples of what different forms of prioritization looks like and offers support and understanding as people step through their graduate programs.

(Audience: Collegiate-Graduate Students)

5. Tell Me About Yourself: Recognizing and Owning Your Strengths and How to Share Them.

Effective leaders are made by choice and practice. They know what their strengths are and use them to move both themselves and their team forward. Do you know what strengths you bring to the table? To gain more clarity about your strengths please join us for an introduction to the Dependable Strengths Process where you will begin to identify your strengths and learn about a proven strategy to discover the strengths of others.

(Audience: All)

6. Yes, I am an Engineer: Making the Transition from College to Industry.

Want to learn how to market your technical, professional, and leadership skills. Leveraging your skills as entry level engineers in the industry is essential. This workshop will enable students to see the importance of networking and how to use it along with their technical knowledge to open doors and connect with industry professionals.

(Audience: Collegiate)

7. Lightning Talks:

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(Audience: All)

Cyber Security

Smart cyber security relies on smart people. A short talk on education and skillsets required to pursue the Cybersecurity field. An overview of careers in government and private enterprises. How to get your foot in the door even if you do not have prior information technology experience and knowledge.

What Does Your Social Media Say About You?

Many candidates are oblivious to the fact that top companies are peering into their Facebook and Twitter profiles. Come learn some common mistakes made by people trying to transition in and move up the ladder. This talk will share insight on professional email etiquette, how best to present and maintain ones professional social media account and learn how to put your whole self forward in a positive way.