

**Kaitlyn Keil:**

It was incredible and inspiring to be surrounded by that many engineers and leaders, and the chance to talk to even a small number of them was fantastic. My favorite moments were the ones where I was able to connect with someone before or during a session and get a bit of a glimpse into what had brought her to the conference and into her career. The career fair was a lot of people, and a lot of interesting companies; it was good to see non-software roles emphasized more. A few of the session made me rethink the way I approach making connections and how I view getting a job.

**Jingyi Xu:**

SWE was the first conference I've ever attended! I didn't go for the career fair, but I attended several technical talks. It was very inspiring to hear stories of female engineers from various industries, and from them I saw more possibilities in my future career. I also spoke with some companies during the career fair. There were companies from lots of different industries which we don't usually see at Olin career fair, and it was very interesting to hear about the work they do.

**Sarah Barden:**

My first-time experience at SWE was thrilling and I'm already looking forward to my future years in SWE. The career fair on Thursday and Friday was so large with many recruiters interested in Olin and and I went to several inspiring talks on Saturday. The expense of the SWE conference is a huge barrier to many, but it is an invaluable experience to meet and see so many successful women engineers. Without the support of the SAG grant, I would not have been able to take advantage of this eye-opening trip in my senior year!

**Elena Meyerson:**

Attending the 2018 SWE National Conference was an incredible career development and networking opportunity. Over the course of the conference I had the opportunity to interview with 6 different companies and I gained valuable skills in self-presentation. Attending the career fair allowed me to practice my elevator pitch and further define for myself what I am excited about working on. The conference was a also a great opportunity to network with women from all over the country. During the weekend, I had many great conversations with new people and talked about all kinds of issues regarding the state of women in engineering. It was inspiring to see so many women doing what I am so excited to do in the future.

**Sarah Deng:**

The SWE conference is always a great place to make connections to women in the field and learn from their experiences.

**Remy Boudousquie:**

SWE was an incredible experience to not just network or get opportunities for jobs, but also to be able to connect with people who support one another and bond in our experiences as women working toward bettering the future.

**Sam Young:**

SWE has been an amazing experience. I have gone every year since my freshman year and see it as an imperative part of my professional development. I am grateful to SWE for providing me the opportunity to network with hundreds of companies from across the country, even receiving internship and co-op offers from the conference. My favorite part of the conference is the casual conversations and connections I make with other young engineering students from other schools and with the other women in Olin's SWE chapter. It is an invaluable experience to learn how to present myself, Olin, and learn about women's experiences in this field. I hope that one day I can return to SWE with my future employer, still being a part of the SWE community.

**Annie Tor:**

I had an incredible time at the 2018 SWE conference. It was great to see so much diversity in a field that's typically dominated by a very specific demographic. The most exciting part of the conference for me was getting my first interview (which led to an internship!).

**Talia Tandler:**

I had a great experience at SWE. It was an awesome opportunity to learn about different companies and network. It was also super successful for me because my interviews turned into offers.

**Annie Chu:**

My SWE experience overall was extremely positive. I gained a lot of perspective and insight within the professional community, built connections, and also had great conversations with other collegiate members. It was also amazing listening to many of the speakers and learning about their journey.

**Becca Suchower:**

I had a very positive experience at the 2018 SWE Conference in Minneapolis this past month. As a first-year, I gained a lot of experience at the career fair, where I practiced talking to companies and networking. I also had the opportunity to interview with a company for a summer internship, and received an offer the next week! I can safely say that the skills I learned at the career fair will help me throughout my journey to becoming a professional engineer. I also attended a few

sessions and talks, where I found the advice and stories of the experienced engineers to be very valuable.

**Gracey Wilson:**

The SWE Conference was a fantastic opportunity to meet inspiring individuals, gain exposure to innovative ideas and continue building a positive support system as an aspiring woman engineer. The energy around diversity at the conference was especially exciting. Aside from meeting representatives from companies and making progress in my job search, I also met several awesome fellow engineering students who I've kept in touch with, and had some eye-opening conversations. Thank you for your support of Olin's SWE Chapter - it made such amazing experiences possible for so many students!

**Anna Letcher Hartman:**

As a freshman I went in to the event with the hope of learning rather than getting a job. I got to talk to a lot of real engineers and see what they actually did. I also got to practice my elevator pitch a tun.

**Emily Nasiff:**

Attending SWE for the second time was a far different experience then the first time around. This year I was much more comfortable and sure of myself which meant I got a lot more from the conference than last year. Connecting with companies was a great privilege but attending the talks had a much greater impact. Overall, I left feeling dissatisfied with the state of women in engineering but hopeful about the future and energized to help bring about change.

**Olivia Seitelman:**

The SWE conference really helped me to get better at pitching myself to companies and learning more about what I might want to do for a career. In talking to representatives, I made sure to ask about the types of projects people were working on and what parts of it they enjoyed, and I learned a lot about how people apply what they've learned in school to a job in the real world and how I can do the same thing.

**Liv Kelley:**

SWE was an excellent opportunity because it allowed me to explore a large number of medical companies in an inviting environment. It also helped me further explore large conference culture and opened up opportunities for me to engage with the hiring process of a larger company.

**Will Derksen:**

I went to SWE for the purpose of becoming a better advocate for women in engineering, and I think to some extent SWE helped push me closer to that,

however not how I was expecting it to. I was expecting to go to talks and have a lot of new ideas thrown at me about women in engineering and how to be an advocate, however, I ended up finding the talks a bit boring and spent most of my time at the career fair. I think I should have given the talks a better chance, but to some extent it makes sense that they were boring. As one of my friends later pointed out (paraphrased), “many guys agree with the ideas of supporting women in engineering, but when it comes to practice, they flop.” I believe I am one of these people and going to the SWE career fair helped me be more aware of that through exposure. At a conference for supporting women in engineering you’d expect women to be at home and comfortable, however there were cases of behavior of attendees and employers that I saw and heard that made me believe that SWE is not such a place for women in engineering. There were things I found systematically unhelpful about how SWE was set up. Through the attentiveness I had towards these kind of actions, since they were so surprising to find at SWE, I came to understand something closer to the true nature of women in engineering, a sad and dire situation that nerds aware and active members and advocates. I don’t think I will particularly go to SWE again in the future, I don’t think the structure is one conducive to the end goal. But it did push me to be more aware, and hopefully, soon this experience will help me do what I can to be an even better advocate.

**Katie Butler:**

The WE18 conference was an interesting experience and I think I learned a lot. I had no idea what such a big career fair would be like until I walked into the conference center. I went to some really cool talks lead by women engineers working in policy and evaluating how the world of engineering has changed for women today in the eyes of those women who entered the field back in the 70s. I could have planned better regarding the order that I talked to companies to get interviewed while at SWE by more companies. I would have liked more advice on that before getting there. I still interviewed with two cool companies at the conference.

**Emma Westerhoff:**

I had a fantastic time at the SWE conference, it gave me a lot of confidence talking to potential employers. It was a really good experience to swap tips with other women in engineering, and it really made me consciously consider where my career could go.

**Tehya Stockman:**

Being at SWE at Olin is interesting because we have about 50% women, so it often does not feel like there needs to be a group for women engineers. Being at the conference and seeing thousands of women there made me realize that it still is a really gender equality problem in engineering today. Many of the talks were centered on gender problems that I am bound to face in the future but have not yet because of Olin’s equal gender ratio (or at least problems are not as prominent here).

It's still a bit strange to hear the women talk about being one of only a few women in their office or going to school with mostly men; It's just not what I think about on a daily basis.

Going to the conference also gave me more practice talking with companies. I was lucky enough to get interviews at the conference, which were good practice for future interviews. I was able to network with women and people at different companies as well.

Overall, I had a good time at the conference and learned more about both gender inequality issues in the engineering workplace as well as technical things like systems engineering.

**Aurora Buntzen:**

I enjoyed SWE immensely as it allowed me to connect with companies, hear inspirational talks, and, most importantly, bond with the other women engineers that attended from my school. I made lasting connections with amazing women and am grateful for the conference as it brought us closer together.

**Gwyn Phelps:**

This was my third year attending the SWE conference and as usual it was an amazing experience. It was great to be able to travel with the Olin SWE group to Minneapolis and have a chance to form relationships with companies, professional women, and other female Oliners. I think attending the SWE conference has been the best career move I've made at Olin, and am thankful that SAG gives so generously to the group in order to provide this opportunity.

**Emma Price:**

This was my third Society of Women Engineers conference and I think that at each one I reflect more on what it means to be a women engineer. At each conference I am given the wonderful opportunity to connect with women who are working in the field and I better understand how women interact with their engineer identity. The SWE conference is also a wonderful chance for me to meet other collegiate women engineers and discuss our experiences in engineering. Very rarely at Olin do students discuss the effects of their gender on their lives, but SWE creates a very nice juxtaposition for the experiences that I have at Olin. At Olin, it seems that many women students feel uncomfortable talking about how gender affects them because they feel they shouldn't feel an effect here, at a gender balanced college. However, you realize how much gender affects you when you are in a group of people who are likely majority women working for the advancement of women in engineering. The SWE career fair is the only time that I interact with professional engineers that are mostly women. Though Olin's career fair is not exclusively men, I still tend to interact almost entirely with men or if I do interact with a woman, she is a recruiter, not an engineer. To that point, the only interviews that I have ever had with with companies where the interviewers women were at the SWE conference.

I think that, while a single one of these experiences would go unnoticed, all of them happening at only really is able to make a difference in my interactions with the professional field of engineering and computer science.

**Su Min Jang:**

Overall, SWE was a very interesting experience. My experience at SWE was probably a lot more limited as a senior and due to my international status. Three days at SWE made me realize the difficult reality I face in this country and gave me despair that ultimately turned into motivation to simply try harder. I also decided to be more proactive about sharing the knowledge with my fellow international students on the lack of sponsorship opportunities after graduation.

**Emma Pan:**

SWE was a great experience for me to become better acquainted with networking. I found my elevator pitch getting smoother and more specific as time went on in the career fair, and became more confident in selling myself. I also got two job offers out of SWE, one in a field that I'm really excited about!

**Allison Basore:**

The SWE Conference has historically been an awesome way to bring anyone who supports women in engineering together with career, networking, skill building, and community events. This year, in particular, it was exciting to be bringing our largest group to the conference. To see and hear about everyone learning and growing in the short time that we were at the conference makes the planning and funds worth it. With the success of this year's trip, I wholeheartedly believe that it is worthwhile to continue to facilitate as many students as possible to the Society of Women Engineers Conference.

**Vicky McDermott:**

The SWE Conference was a fantastic opportunity for me. At this conference, I was able to meet and network with many other women engineers, both students and professionals. It was also a great opportunity for me to practice presenting myself to companies and learn valuable interview skills. I was even able to attend a technical interview workshop where I learned a lot about how to prepare myself for these interviews. Having such a large group of Oliners at this conference was a really powerful experience and one that I hope we will be able to continue in the future.

**Abby Fry:**

I had a great time at SWE. In addition to having the opportunity to interview with companies, I also had the chance to go the State of Women in Engineering Talk. The talk provided really awesome insight into the research that SWE does and how it relates to the workforce.

**Shreya Chowdhary:**

As a first year student, I entered the SWE career fair with little experience in pitching myself or networking. The career fair provided ample opportunity for me to develop my professional skills.

**Minju Kang:**

Because of your SAG grant, I was able to get a lot of feedback that helped me getting a job! I had a chance to reflect how I'm doing and get a confidence about myself. Thanks for your support!

**Elizabeth Tawes:**

This was my first time attending a SWE conference and I am so grateful for the opportunity! I had a wonderful time at the event and loved getting to explore Minneapolis in the process. As a first timer, I was mostly interested in the experience and getting a feel for how to make the best of SWE next year; thus, I was so happy to not only get to experience the conference, but also do well at the career fair and receive two interviews and an offer while there. Thank you once again to everyone who made this trip possible.

**Ashley Swanson:**

My SWE experience was highly impactful in terms of professional growth. Having the opportunity to talk with recruiters from so many leaders in technology gave me invaluable experience presenting my skills and accomplishments to possible employers. The seminars offered at the conference gave me the confidence to talk to companies that I would have been far too timid to approach otherwise, and I learned about what sorts of skills I should continue pursuing to end up in the type of job that I would like to eventually obtain.

**Hannah Kolano:**

The SWE conference was an awesome experience. Attending such a large career fair was daunting, but good practice. The talks were simultaneously thought-provoking and relevant, ranging in topics from civilization infrastructure on other planets to what to look for in a PhD advisor. Not only did I land an internship, but I also got to hear the perspectives of a number of women in the field and get a better feel for marketing myself and navigating interview situations.