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Contact Us  
SWE Mid-Michigan

E-Mail:

## About Mid-Michigan SWE

The local Mid-Michigan SWE section, chartered May 11, 2009, covers the Great Lakes Bay Region, including Alma, Bay City, Bridgeport, Frankenmuth, Midland, Mt. Pleasant, and Saginaw. Currently we have approximately one hundred women representing twenty companies as a part of our local section. These companies represent many different industrial sectors including automotive, chemical, construction, consumer products, and solar.

Below are a few ways to get more information about your local Mid-Michigan SWE Section. They are a work in progress so check back frequently for up-to-date information.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SECTION WEBSITE:

<http://midmichigan.swe.org/>

See more information about SWE and view the upcoming events calendar!

JOIN OUR LINKED IN GROUP:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Women-Engineers-SWE>

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK GROUP\*:

<http://www.facebook.com/midmichigan.swe>

**\*If you cannot access Facebook from your work email, please forward to your personal email address!**

*NOTE: Our SWE Mid-Michigan Website contact form is now working, however we were unable to receive emails via the contact form between 12/1/2014 – 3/14/2015. If you tried to contact us during this timeframe, please resend your request again. We apologize for this inconvenience.*

Mid-  
MichBoard@swe.org

**FY15: 2014-2015**

**Executive Board:**

**President**  
Tracy Voet  
Styron LLC

**Vice President**  
Nancy Tseng  
Dow Chemical

**Section Rep**  
Rebekah Feist  
Dow Chemical

**Secretary**  
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Megan Clark  
Dow Corning Corporation

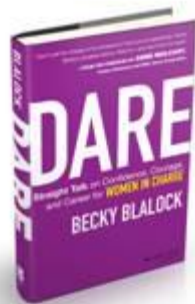
## Girl Scout Event

Our “Engage in Engineering” Event hosted by the Bay City Girl Scouts was held on January 22nd and was a huge success. This event was held at Auburn Elementary School in Auburn, MI and was attended by over 50 girl scouts ranging in age from Kindergarten to High School. The girls rotated between 5 different stations with activities ranging from building contraptions to transport “radioactive” golf balls to working as a team to build towers using rubber bands. Through this event, the girls were able to learn and discover what it means to work as an engineer!



## 2015 SWE Book Club

The first and second sessions of the 2015 SWE Book Club were held on February 10 and March 10, respectively! For each session, approximately 12 ladies gathered in Whine after work to engage in a spirited discussion around *Dare: Straight Talk on Confidence, Courage, and Career for Women in Charge* by Becky Blalock. The conversation delved into the topics of the first



three chapters about how to set a high target by establishing a future vision and staying true to your core values, how to understand your weaknesses, and how to become your own best advocate. The book club provides a safe environment for participants to share their reflections and personal experiences while enjoying snacks and each other’s company. The last session will be held at Whine at 5:30 pm on April 14. If you have any questions regarding the book club, please contact either Nancy Tseng at [NTseng@dow.com](mailto:NTseng@dow.com) or Michelle Sikarskie at [Michelle.Sikarskie@dowcorning.com](mailto:Michelle.Sikarskie@dowcorning.com).

## Financial Panel Discussion

SWE recently held the financial panel discussion and overall, it was a great success. Morgan Stanley was there to give an overview of financial planning, and to help answer any financial questions in an open discussion forum. Close to 40 people were in attendance, and there was a very interactive question and answer session! Information packets were also handed out to those interested in learning more about how to positively impact their financial position.

## 2015 Region H Conference

The 2015 SWE Region H Conference, Bringing the Brains & Beauty to Engineering, was held March 6 – 7 on the beautiful University of Notre Dame campus. This year's conference provided an interactive forum for more than 800 students, engineers, technology and business leaders from industry, academia, and government to network and to develop professionally and personally in an environment conducive to delivering on SWEs three goals: promoting professional excellence by developing women engineers, being a global and inclusive organization promoting diversity and inclusion, and by advocating for the inclusion and success of women. The Region H conference has a long history of being the largest regional conference that SWE hosts annually and the SWE MidMichigan section was well represented this year with 5 attendees from Dow Corning and Dow.

The conference activities began Friday afternoon with a continuing education unit where attendees learned about "How to ask with confidence and receive what you want" that was taught by Nadine Haupt, of FAST Women in Business. Multiple tours were also provided of the Notre Dame Campus and even the amazing Notre Dame Football Stadium where we learned about the Gipper, where they filmed the movie "Rudy", and how to "play like a champion today!" Attendees could also visit the Notre Dame Power Plant, the South Bend Chocolate Factory, and even Honeywell. The Friday evening entertainment included time to relax with mani/pedi's and massages, special showings of Big Hero 6 & Apollo 13, swimming, and all of your favorite childhood board games.

The official conference program began Saturday morning with a strong welcome and State of SWE address delivered by SWE FY15 President Elizabeth Bierman, Sr Project Engineer for Honeywell Aerospace. Elizabeth talked about our efforts making SWE a truly international organization with global presence, improving SWE branding, including a possible new SWE symbol, and our organizations work securing more resources for sections to provide more scholarships and to enhance their impact on our society. Next an enthusiastic key note talk was delivered by Tara Murphy, the Vice President and General Manager for Keurig Green Mountain, Global Brand & Product – Cold Systems, who shared how following her passion lead her from learning how things work, to making things at scale, to connecting brands with consumers, the earning and selling aspects of business, and now, in her current role, how organizations work. Following the morning welcome the collegiate and professional section meetings broke out.

The professional meeting discussed Region H business, notably the conference budget status and elections for 2016, which will occur in early April 2015. Thereafter Lori Tauber Marcus, Chief Product Officer of Keurig Cold Systems, gave a rich and moving talk, challenging the professionals in the audience "to train for the life and career that you deserve". She shared her approach to looking at your work and life path holistically, rather than as separately, and how to trust your gut and choose which direction is best for

you in the moment, always abiding by your true North. She advocated for thinking of ourselves as “corporate athletes” that need to plan-train-refuel in order to deliver the best we can despite the cards we are dealt. The Region H four afternoon professional and personal development sessions

comprised 25 invited oral presentations that endeavored to cover a broad range of topics including leadership, goal making, how to build your professional network, how to own your career, how to influence with persuasion, and how to build a team and make it work. To complement the PD sessions, an impressive 52 companies recruited top talent by participating in the conference Career Fair, which was on-going concurrently for the collegiate members. At the end of the day the conference closing address was delivered by Katie Dommer, Associate Technical Fellow at Aerojet Rocketdyne, who shared her expertise in the in-space liquid rocket propulsion field.

Following the closing address the MidMichigan section (pictured below, from left to right, Rebecca Wells, Elizabeth Stelzer, Rebekah Feist, Nancy Tseng, Mollie Hesse) enjoyed a delicious dinner at Woochi Japanese Fusion in South Bend. That wraps up another fantastic and enriching SWE Region H conference.



On behalf of SWE and all the volunteers who comprise the SWE Region H 2016 conference planning committee we cordially invite you to join us for the SWE Region H 2016 conference at the University of Platteville, Wisconsin on February 26-28, 2016. So mark your calendars and know that we look forward to personally welcoming you in Platteville for the SWE Region H 2016 conference!

## **Watch for our upcoming events!**

Watch your emails and check the SWE calendar for event announcements! As we are all enjoying the holiday season, SWE is hard at work planning events for 2015. Events for professional development, networking, volunteering and more will be coming up.

Do you have an idea for an event? Do you have an event that your group would like to partner on with us? If so please let us know by emailing:

[Mid-michboard@swe.org](mailto:Mid-michboard@swe.org).

## **\*\* VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! \*\***

### **STEM Arts and Literacy Night at Bullock Creek High School**

SWE will be hosting a room at the upcoming “STEM Arts and Literacy Family Night” event at Bullock Creek High School on April 22. The event will consist of dozens of STEM and literary activities hosted by groups across the Midland area, and SWE will be there with several fun experiments for students to try! See the details below for more information, and let us know if you would like to help out!

**WHAT:** A room at the STEM Arts and Literacy Family Night. SWE will have 3-4 different activities, and details on those will go out to volunteers closer to the event. This is a district-wide event, so there will be students of all ages.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 22, 6:00-7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Bullock Creek High School (1420 South Badour Rd., Midland, MI 48640)

**WHO:** All of YOU! Students will be coming and going to all the rooms in small groups throughout the night, so we would like to have 2 volunteers at each activity to answer any questions (and play with the kids! 😊). If you have any questions, want more details, or would like to volunteer, please e-mail Amy Chang at [a.chang@dowcorning.com](mailto:a.chang@dowcorning.com). Please respond by Wednesday, April 15 if you want to volunteer.

### **Habitat for Humanity: Women’s Build Week**

The Mid-Michigan section will once again be participating in the Habitat for Humanity Women’s Build Week. This event will take place in Midland County May 4-8, and our section will be participating on Friday, May 8. More details about timing and location will be communicated soon. Please contact Michelle Sikarskie ([michelle.sikarskie@dowcorning.com](mailto:michelle.sikarskie@dowcorning.com)) if you are interested in participating or have any questions.

# Engage in Engineering Summer Camps and Nanotechnology Kickoff Event

## Summer Camp Dates

SWE will be hosting three STEM camps across the Tri-Cities this summer.



Tentative dates are June 13, June 20, and June 26 with one camp each in the Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw areas. The camps are for girls that are going into 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Last year, we had 150 girls participate in the camps with great success. The girls made solar cars, designed and printed a jewelry box lid on 3D printers, played with

robotic arms, and competed in an assembly line activity. Many girls indicated an interest in coming back this year, both as participants and volunteers. We hope to see you this year as well, whether you help out as a volunteer or come with your kids, so save the date!

## Nanotechnology Kickoff Event

To help kickoff registration for the summer camps, we will be hosting an event the evening of Thursday, April 30 at the Dow Corning Midland Plant cafeteria! Professor Becky Peterson from the University of Michigan will be talking about the use of nanotechnology in relation to electronics. Parents and children will be welcome. More details for the event will be coming, both on the Mid-Michigan SWE website and via email, so keep an eye out!



## You're on our Email List, but are YOU a Member?

### How to become a Member of SWE:

While signing up to be on our email distribution list and attending Mid-Michigan SWE events is great, there is a little more to becoming a SWE member. Don't get us wrong – we welcome anyone to our events, member or not. We are also thrilled to have the opportunity to network and meet other women who may not be members of SWE, and help them find opportunities to volunteer in our communities.

Unfortunately, when we charge for events, we typically need to charge non-SWE members a little more than our rate for members. Why is this? As it turns out, a portion of the fee that you pay to SWE nationals when you sign up to be a member of SWE comes back to the section to help fund events. That's why we can charge members less – a portion of our budget is funded by their memberships!

So, if you want to become a member of SWE, here is what you do:

1. Go to [swe.org](http://swe.org) and click on Membership.
2. Click on Types and Benefits to see the different kinds of memberships available and other information throughout the page. These include a standard professional membership for \$100 annual fee, joint membership options with other minority organizations, and discounts for recent grads and those who are retired or may be unemployed. (The most common membership type is Professional, and anyone with a degree in engineering or similar field qualifies.)
3. After you determine which membership group you fall into, select Join across the top bar or the yellow button that says Join/Renew.
4. This will open another window and click on "Become a Member (Non-member)".
5. Follow the prompts to create your account.
6. Select your membership. There is a one-time processing fee of \$20 for all new members. You can then proceed to the Checkout.
7. Processing may take a little time, but you will typically be notified by mail with your membership number, and you will start to receive the occasional email from National SWE.

The most common question we hear is, "Will my company pay for my membership?" In our experience, some companies do, and some do not. We even have seen employees of the same company get different answers depending on their department policies or their boss's discretion. It doesn't hurt to ask, but be prepared that not all employers are funding professional memberships. If you have any other questions, feel free to contact [Mid-michboard@swe.org](mailto:Mid-michboard@swe.org) and we will do our best answer your questions!