Established in 1969, Purdue’s Women in Engineering Program (WIEP) helps girls and women discover and nurture their inner engineer. From mentoring to career development, WIEP encourages current and future women engineering students by providing interesting and engaging programming relevant to their lives.

WIEP programs are a place to learn, discover, and explore aspects of engineering and connect with others who are also interested. They are a place of encouragement, support, and positive perspectives.

When WIEP originated — the first of its kind in the nation, and now a model for other universities — women accounted for less than 1% of the College of Engineering’s enrollment. In the fall of 2015, women comprised 25% of the undergraduate enrollment. To date, Purdue’s College of Engineering has granted more than 10,000 engineering degrees to women, thanks in large part to WIEP’s efforts.

From middle school students starting to explore their futures through graduating college seniors entering the workplace as engineering professionals, WIEP’s impact, across a host of innovative programs, is proven. This success has been possible principally because of gifts that support both K-12 outreach and current student programs.

Through Ever True: The Campaign for Purdue University, the Women in Engineering Program will enhance our programs to reach an increasing number of K-12 students and serve an increasing number of engineering students. Running from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2019, the campaign is the largest in University history, and it concludes in Purdue’s 150th anniversary year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WIEP has a tremendous track record in recruiting and retaining women to engineering. We invite you to help fund our continuing innovation in outreach and student programs, to support the dreams of future women engineers as they imagine, discover, and connect at Purdue.

We also invite you to participate as a speaker, coach, role model, or facilitator through our many programs — WIEP’s success is not possible without strong alumnae involvement. Networking with future women engineers provides them the opportunity to learn from your expertise, be inspired by your successes, develop their own resiliency from your experiences with challenges, and connect with the broader Purdue Engineering family.
2012-2019 CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES

ACCESS ENGINEERING

Access Engineering partners with local summer programs for K-8th graders to provide hands-on engineering activities and projects led by female engineering students, who serve as facilitators, educators, and role models. Through its many partnerships, WIEP reaches more than 1,500 K-8th graders each summer.

EXPLORING ENGINEERING AT PURDUE

This program invites high school juniors and seniors to campus for a day that’s all about women and engineering. Students get information about two engineering disciplines they choose as well as an intro to the First-Year Engineering Program, student life, and engineering in the “real world.” They also can take campus tours and meet Purdue professors, current students, and enthusiastic college alums.

ACCESS ALUM

A new initiative through which alums who are planning to come to campus have a chance to chat with undergraduate and graduate women in engineering. These informal half-hour to two-hour sessions are prime opportunities for students to network with alums, ask questions, have a resume reviewed, and learn more about industry, government, and academic positions.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING SENIOR SEMINAR

Junior and senior students can choose this one-credit course to interact with guest facilitators who share stories and tips about their time in various engineering-related careers to prepare students as they graduate to maximize their success and retention within engineering and related fields. Students also learn and practice peer-coaching skills.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE MENTORING PROGRAMS

The goals of the mentoring programs are to provide personal support to students, to build their confidence through affirmation of skills and values, and to share effective strategies for success during their engineering education and beyond. Participants can choose from one-on-one or group mentoring experiences and can choose to participate in additional small groups. Engineering alumnae serve as role models through interactive presentations, which focus on academic, personal, and professional growth at monthly dinner meetings throughout the year.