



ADULT ADVOCATES NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2024

For the Love of Engineering - Celebrating Passion and Diversity



Welcome to our February edition, where we celebrate our love for engineering and the diverse contributions of women engineers, especially African American women, for Black History Month. This month is packed with significant dates, including Safer Internet Day, International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, and Engineers Week.

These occasions not only highlight the importance of engineering in our daily lives but also underscore the need for inclusive representation in STEM fields.

Safer Internet Day: Empowering Responsible Digital Citizenship

On **Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024** Safer Internet Day emphasizes the importance of creating a safer online environment. This day serves as a reminder of the critical role engineers play in cybersecurity and online safety. It's an opportunity to educate and inspire young women about the impact they can make in creating secure digital spaces. There are quick and easy ways to educate young women on how to provide a safe, controlled environment using basic cybersecurity tools. For example, they could use [password strength testers](#) or engage in an [educational phishing simulation](#).



International Day of Women and Girls in Science: Recognizing Female Achievements

On **Feb. 11**, we recognize International Day of Women and Girls in Science as a pivotal occasion to honor the remarkable contributions of women in science and to emphasize the importance of encouraging girls to pursue careers in **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**. As STEM fields are rapidly expanding and employers are increasingly seeking skilled professionals, the inclusion of women is more relevant than ever. Celebrate this day by exploring the inspiring journeys of women who are pioneers in technology and by actively supporting young women's STEM ambitions, including guiding them towards women-only STEM scholarships.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day: Fostering Future Innovators

Celebrate Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on **Feb. 22** and join in on DiscoverE's Girl Day, a dedicated event where volunteers, educators, and various professionals come together to inspire the next generation of female engineers. This special day is an opportunity for role models to engage with young girls through exciting engineering activities and demonstrations, showing them firsthand how engineers have a profound impact on our world.

Research conducted by DiscoverE, titled '**Despite the Odds,**' reveals that this approach is highly effective in fostering a girl's interest in engineering. It not only builds their confidence in solving problems but also helps them develop a strong identity in STEM fields.



Black History Month: Celebrating African-American Contributions in STEM

During Black History Month, we dedicate our efforts to recognizing the achievements of African-American engineers and scientists. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping various technological and scientific fields. Highlight these stories and similar accomplishments in your programs and discussions to provide role models for aspiring young engineers.

- **Dr. Aprille Ericsson-Jackson:** Dr. Aprille Ericsson-Jackson is a notable figure in the field of aerospace engineering. As the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Howard University and the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in Engineering at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Dr. Ericsson-Jackson has been a trailblazer. Her work has significantly impacted space technology, particularly in spacecraft control systems. She has worked on several important [NASA missions](#), including the Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat), which measures ice sheet mass balance, cloud and aerosol heights, and land topography.
- **Ayanna Howard, Ph.D.:** Dr. Ayanna Howard is renowned for her work in robotics and artificial intelligence, and became dean of The Ohio State University College of Engineering on March 1, 2021. Previously she was chair of the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Interactive Computing in the College of Computing, as well as founder and director of the Human-Automation Systems Lab (HumAnS). There, she was a senior robotics researcher and contributed to the development of the Mars Rover. Dr. Howard's work focuses on creating intelligent robots that can assist humans in complex or hazardous tasks, such as space exploration or assisting children with special needs.



Engineers Week: A Celebration of Engineering Impact

This year, **Engineers Week Feb. 18-24** and embraces the theme “Welcome to the Future” the current triumphs in engineering while forging a path towards a more innovative and inclusive engineering future.

Engineering plays a crucial role in devising and crafting the solutions that shape tomorrow's world, and engineers have spearheaded advancements in diverse areas. creation of the internet and smartphones groundbreaking strides in space exploration and the development of sustainable energy solutions. Their ingenuity, skill, and commitment are central to tackling global challenges and positively influencing our society's future.



During Engineers Week, you're encouraged to acknowledge and applaud the significant contributions of engineers and to involve students in the fascinating world of engineering. **For more information and to access these tools, visit DiscoverE.org/EngineersWeek.**

SWENext Annual Awards Will Be Closing Soon!

The Society of Women Engineers strives to recognize the successes of SWENext students and SWENext Clubs that do exceptional work in developing a community for students to explore engineering and other STEM fields, as well as advance and honor the contributions of women at all stages of their careers. The nomination deadline for all SWENext Annual Awards and SWE Individual Awards is March 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CT. Award recipients will be recognized in the fall of 2024, around the time of WE24 Annual Conference. Learn more about all Society of Women Engineers Awards. For information or specific questions on SWE Awards, please contact Ronica McKinley, FY24 Awards & Recognition Committee Chair. Share with the SWENext seniors in your life and have them [apply today!](#)

SWE Judges Needed!

SWE needs your help! We are currently recruiting judges/reviewers to assist in the areas below. [Please sign up to judge/review today.](#)

- SWE Awards Program & SWENext Annual Awards - Judging Dates March 12 -26, 2024
- WE24 Breakout Session Reviewer Sign Up – Judging Dates March 25, 2024 - April 19, 2024

If you are interested, find more information on dates, commitment and applications [on our website.](#)

Attention Advocates, Educators and Parents/Guardians: SWE Scholarship Applications Are Now Open!

A promotional banner for SWE scholarships. On the left, a dark purple background contains the SWE logo (a gear icon with 'swe' text), the text 'Apply for SWE 2024/25 Incoming Freshman Scholarships', a yellow button that says 'APPLY TODAY!', and the website 'SWE.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS'. On the right, a photograph of a smiling young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white and blue striped shirt and a black backpack, holding several books. Overlaid on the image are three circles: a yellow one at the top saying 'APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW', a blue one in the middle saying 'Applications Due', and a red one at the bottom saying 'March 31 5 PM CT'.

If your child/student qualifies for the criteria below, they are eligible to [apply for SWE Scholarships today!](#)

Here are some key items to keep in mind:

- The 2024-2025 ABET Incoming Freshmen application **closes March 31, at 5pm CT.**
- Applicants will need two references to submit letters of recommendation. Be sure to remind them to submit their recommendations before the March 31st deadline.
- SWENexters get an additional point during the review process for participating in the program!
- Double check if the applicant's college program is ABET-accredited before they apply.
- Check out our [flyer](#) for best practices when applying!
- Questions? Check out SWE's [FAQ doc](#) or email SWE at scholarships@swe.org.

Follow SWE Outreach on Social Media

Get in on the conversation and join our [Outreach Incubator Facebook page](#) to engage in discussions and receive tips for conducting outreach. Educators can join our [SWENextEd Facebook page](#) to find even more classroom resources.

SWENext HQ is also on social media!

Engage with fellow SWENexters, gain access to fun activities and see what SWENext is up to!

- [Facebook](#)
- [X, formerly known as Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
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