

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE DISCOVER UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES



WELCOME, NEW STUDENTS!



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Female students from the College of Engineering Technology enjoy a meal together before the student panel and presentation. Pictured from left to right: Anna Ward, Jeannette Wooldridge, Audrey Hesson, Teanna VanHorn, and Megan Paulus

To kick off the Fall 2016 semester, the College of Engineering Technology (CET) hosted a welcome event to celebrate female students newly enrolled at Ferris. While the event was open to anyone interested in attending, it has been organized for the past three years as it was created based on female CET student feedback. Event attendance has continued to grow, and this third year marks the highest attendance numbers observed to date. Given that women are underrepresented within College, these evenings give students the opportunity to build connections with others, learn more about Ferris, and gain exposure to successful female upper classmen who undoubtedly serve as outstanding role models. The evening began with a shared meal followed by students engaging in introduction activities to identify common areas of interest and to share perspectives.

A panel of female students who represented a variety of programs within the CET shared their experiences, offered advice, and fielded questions from attendees. Much gratitude is extended to the fantastic student volunteers who included Kaylie Bohn, Teanna VanHorn, Chelsey Porter, Julia Tisdale, Megan Paulus, and Audrey Hesson. Leigha Compson, University Career Programs Specialist, provided a brief presentation for the group regarding information about resources available on campus and invited students to meet with her individually as needed. For more information about Ms. Compson's position and the resources available to students, please visit the newly updated website here: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/technolo/Career-Programs-Support/index.htm>. You also may read a comprehensive article written by The Torch that featured this event through the following link: <http://fsutorch.com/2016/09/14/networking-dinner-hosted-women-stem/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! Numerous events are planned to celebrate women pursuing nontraditional career fields for the Spring, 2017 semester. Examples are listed below. Visit the CET Facebook page for updates, and watch for emails and flyers advertising these events as the dates get closer. In addition to these campus events, many community outreach events are planned to encourage middle school aged students to continue taking Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related courses. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Leigha Compson and LeighaCompson@Ferris.edu.

2.7.17 | 6 PM | UC 202C
Networking Event
 Engage with a successful female CET alum over dinner with other students.

3.23.17 | 11 AM | UC 203
Coffee Chat
 Enjoy snacks and conversation with fellow students.

4.18.17 | 6 PM | UC 202BC
Recognition Banquet
 Celebrate females in CET with faculty, staff, and students over dinner with awards to follow.

4.27.17 | 9 AM-3PM | JOH 200
Study Break
 Stop in to build a study snack kit, learn about stress management and honor graduating students.



Scan the QR code below to check out our freshly updated website for the latest news and events!



<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/technology/Career-Programs->

MIX IT UP NETWORKING EVENT

On October 10, 2016 alum Sheri Strpko visited Ferris to discuss her career experiences with Rieth-Riley. She reflected on her educational background from Ferris and offered in-depth advice about finding career success as a female in a nontraditional career field. Ms. Strpko's confidence, humor, and evident passion for helping others made her presentation especially engaging. A number of students opted to stay after her presentation to ask her additional questions. Thank you, Ms. Strpko for your time and valuable insights!



Sheri Strpko,
Michigan Regional QC
Manager,
Rieth-Riley Construction
Co., Inc.



Women from the College of Engineering Technology gathered over dinner to hear from successful female alum, Sheri Strpko.

COFFEE CHAT: STRESS MANAGEMENT

Women in the College of Engineering Technology met in the University Center on November 8, 2016 to discuss stress management over coffee, hot chocolate, and homemade cookies. With exams just around the corner, the topic was especially pertinent for every student in attendance. This was the first planned "Coffee Chat," and the topic was selected based on student responses to a survey collected the first month of the semester. To help provide a framework for the discussion, students watched a TedTalk by psychologist Kelly McGonigal as she outlined reasons to change the perception that stress is a bad thing into a refreshed view that stress responses can cue inner courage. Rather than viewing stress responses such as faster heartbeats, sweating palms, and shorter breaths as reasons to withdraw and worry, she encourages individuals to think of this as the body preparing to handle the stress that will be experienced. Citing relatively new research, McGonigal indicates that stress is only bad if individuals hold the belief that it is a negative experience to be avoided. She argues that changing mindsets can "make stress your friend." To view this fifteen minute video and learn more, visit



https://www.ted.com/talks/kelly_mcgonigal_how_to_make_stress_your_friend or to read the summary article that is tied with the graphic above, visit <https://www.quora.com/How-can-I-get-rid-of-stress-in-daily-life>. Thank you to the students who attended. The insights and wisdom shared during the discussion were outstanding, and the event evaluations indicated that students especially valued the opportunity to learn and connect with others through this event. A second Coffee Chat is scheduled for March 23 at 11:00 AM in the University Center Room 203. Please reserve your seat today by emailing Leigha-Compsom@Ferris.edu.

RESOURCES

Ferris students have access to a multitude of resources to support success. For a list of some of the resources available, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/>

[HTMLS/academics/center/resources/general/StudentSupport.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/resources/general/StudentSupport.htm). Students also are encouraged to check out additional resources and opportunities to get involved through the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services at www.ferris.edu/careerservices

LAUGHABLE



From instructables.com/id/-1-23-and-it-was-delicious-I-ate-some-pie-a/

WELCOME, KAREN AND THANK YOU, STUDENTS!



A close-up of part of the panel of female students from the College of Engineering Technology who provided information to middle school girls and their parents. Pictured left to right: Karen Haught, Cheyenne Kelly, and Julia Tisdale

With the growth of student program and community outreach to encourage the enrollment and participation of females in engineering-related careers, we have increased our student employee support. Please join me in welcoming Karen Haught! Karen is enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program, and therefore brings with her a valuable perspective as she is a female in a nontraditional career program. This past fall Karen was instrumental in assisting with the planning, organization, and facilitation of our Technological Engineering Aptitude (TEA) events. We look forward to her continued support this spring! In addition, with the growth of events, there is an increased need for student volunteers. Thank you a million times over to our incredibly talented, caring, and organized volunteers who supported many events and served as role models for younger female students. Thank you especially to the Women in Technology (WIT) student organization for your time and efforts! These events would not be successful without your support!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the 2016-2017 academic year, faculty and staff members are invited to participate in a webinar series aimed at providing information about the latest research and best practices for encouraging and supporting students in engineering fields with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion. The first webinar was held in November and was entitled, "Engineering Self-Efficacy: What it is, Why it Matters, and How to Encourage it! . Sponsored by the Engineering Inclusive Teaching program with support from Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN), the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE), and the National Science Foundation (NSF), the webinar highlighted gender differences in self-efficacy and ways in which educators can encourage the development of student self-efficacy. Individuals who are interested in learning more or reviewing the webinar and supporting materials, may visit <http://www.wskc.org/eitwebinars#self-efficacy>.



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

The Women in Technology (WIT) group is a registered student organization (RSO) at Ferris that was established to build connections for the female students within the College of Engineering Technology. The group engages in community outreach especially as it relates to serving as role models for middle school and high school female students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. In addition, WIT members participate in professional development opportunities by meeting with industry representatives, touring job sites, and inviting guest speakers to attend meetings. Members also are active in volunteering to support the community through the organization's involvement in the Big Event, Relay for Life, Rake and Run, and more. The group meets every other Tuesday at 6:00 PM in Swan 202. If you are interested in joining WIT or learning more about the organization, you may contact Chelsey Porter, the current president, at portec16@ferris.edu.



Some of the WIT members pose together at the annual spring picnic.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

This fall the Heavy Equipment Technology program was re-accredited by the Association of Equipment Distributors. The re-accreditation will last for five years and represents strong partnerships between the program, community, and industry. Did you know that the courses for associate and bachelor degrees in heavy equipment are taught in a 53,000 square foot facility and that the bachelor's degree is the only one of its kind in the country? Graduates from the programs are well prepared for their jobs. In fact, heavy equipment student Mitchell Vasicek won 14th place out of 170 technicians at the 2016 TMC Super Tech National Competition this fall! Last spring, exceptional heavy equipment technology student Megan Cramer received the Ferris Rising Star award for her achievements as well. Congratulations to these students! To learn more about the program, you may visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/technolo/auto-heet/heqt/About-the-Programs.htm>, and you also may view a video about the program by scanning the QR code below.



Heavy Equipment Technology student Megan Cramer

STEM NEWS

The results of the first national assessment of engineering and technology abilities were recently released. Administered to eighth grade students across the country, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) showed that the girls scored an average of three points higher than the boys. Students who lived in cities scored lower than those residing in rural areas. The results reinforce the criticality of continuing outreach to middle school girls as research continues to show that females tend to lose interest and lack confidence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) before entering high school. Sharing the results like these with girls and exposing them to successful female role models can encourage them to persist in STEM and consider a wider variety of career opportunities. To read more, visit <https://thejournal.com/Articles/2016/05/17/Eighth-Grade-Girls-Score-Higher-than-Boys-in-Tech-and-Engineering-on-Newest-NAEP-Test.aspx>.

FERRIS GRADS AT WORK

Your Name: Cindee Wilcox

Job Title: Group Manager,
Nestle Nutrition Procurement

Employer: Nestle

Degrees awarded: Plastics
Engineering Technology
(A.A.S. and B.S.)

How would you describe your current position? I am the Purchasing Department head for procuring all food ingredients, packaging materials, and indirect services for Nestle Nutrition Infant Meals.

How has your education supported you in your job thus far? My education taught me how to learn. I may not currently be in the Plastics field, but the foundation of learning that I gained at Ferris helped me to be interested in learning, becoming a life-long learner, and being resourceful, and motivated to consider new and interesting twists and turns in my career.

How was the job search process? I've been in the corporate world for 29 years so my initial job search was a long time ago, but I always pay attention to new career opportunities within Nestle and perpetual

learning opportunities to advance my career. My experience and advice is to always be open, available, and interested in learning. Identify what you like and what you may not like and use this to consider enhancing your current role as well as considering growth in other areas.

What do you see as your biggest challenge? Having enough time is always the greatest challenge. There is so much to do, so much to learn, so much to experience --- and so little time!

What is your favorite Ferris memory? My plastic professors were wonderful. I appreciated their interest in the subject matter as well as the genuine concern for the students.



Cindee Wilcox

What do you do in your spare time? I play guitar, I am a motorcyclist, I enjoy woodworking, and I enjoy long hikes.

What advice would you give to current students?

Show up, pay attention, be present, do your best - *always*.



“Show up, pay attention, be present, and do your best - always.”

— Cindee Wilcox,
Group Manager and
Ferris College of
Engineering Technology
Graduate

IN CLOSING

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter! If you have an idea or comment, we would love to hear from you! You may share your comments with Leigha Compson, University Career Programs Specialist at leighacompson@ferris.edu or by phone at 231-591-3549. I'm available this summer if students wish to schedule time to meet. Here's to a great spring!



CET DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The College of Engineering Technology provides a dynamic experiential learning environment that is inclusive, equitable and just for all individuals, regardless of human differences.

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Talent Investment Agency. Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, Visit ferris.edu/non-discrimination.

