

Society of Women Engineers Rocky Mountain Section
and Colorado State University of Fort Collins Section present the 2025

SPRING SUMMIT

one day professional development conference and awards celebration



*Unlocking Confidence
to Lead and Succeed*



WELCOME

Thank you for your participation and support of the 2025 Spring Summit event, sponsored by SWE RMS and CSU Fort Collins SWE. We are excited for the new connections, insights, and transformations that will occur as attendees empower possibilities! We are very excited to be back at the CSU campus after over 7 years.

We hope you leave this event inspired to take your professional or collegiate engineering career to uncharted territories.

- 2025 Spring Summit Planning Committee

MEET THE COMMITTEE

The Spring Summit Committee is a mix of SWE Rocky Mountain Section professional members and SWE Colorado State University of Fort Collins collegiate members.

Chair (Professional)

Megan Schulze

Chair (Collegiate)

Claryssa Dunigan

Committee Members

Vicki Gates, Kate Havey, Sally Kammer, Rebecca Rothermich, Lisa Woodward, Jill Schaffter, Madalene Fetsch

Website Support

Christi Wisleder

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ABOUT SWE RMS

Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) is one of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) largest sections with over 600 members. The section is also large in physical space encompassing all of Wyoming and most of Colorado with the Colorado Springs and Pueblo areas being part of Pikes Peak Section.

RMS has dedicated leaders, volunteers and contributors thorough its large membership base that are committed to SWE's core values and mission. RMS hosts many programs and events throughout the year that highlight four focus areas: Collegiate Engagement, Membership, Outreach, and Professional Development.

Collegiate Engagement



Collegiate Professional Enrichment Talks - Professional development events that are either directly partnered with a Collegiate Section or are designed for early professionals and collegiates.

Combined Collegiate/Professional Social Events - Events range from Tea with SWE or meetups at the WE or WE Local conferences.

Gear Up Collegiate Partnered Speaker Series - Events designed for early professionals and collegiates. Partners with a Collegiate Section to co-host events.

Scholarships - RMS offers scholarships for entering and continuing college students. Applications are typically due Feb. 1.

Spring Summit - One day professional development conference for collegiates and professionals.



Membership

Discussion Club - A group of SWE members who read, listen, or watch media ranging in topics, then discuss.

Membership Events - Welcome and engage SWE members at fun events, such as the annual membership picnic and winter celebration.

Local Socials - Local social events in a localized geographic area within the Section to foster networking among members.

Summit Awards - Recognizes members for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the section.



Outreach

Certificates of Merit - Recognition program for female high school students for outstanding achievement in mathematics and science.

Essay Contest - "Great Women in Engineering and Science" essay contest for 6th graders. Prizes and certificates are awarded.

GESTEM - Girls Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math event. Empowering girls by introducing them to the exciting possibilities of STEM careers.

SWENext - Connects young people with SWE resources to engage with SWE before graduating high school.

Professional Development



Collective Wisdom Group - Group mentoring that brings together members in similar stages of their career, providing peer support.

Women in Industry - Includes Lightning Talks, Professional Enrichment Talks, Technical Tours, and the signature Women in X events.

Lightning Talks - A series of short sessions presented together on personal and professional topics.

Professional Enrichment Talks - Premier networking and professional development programs, providing career growth and development.

Technical Tours - Past tours include NOAA, NIST, Coors Ethanol Plant, Otterbox, Boom, wineries, and distilleries.

Women in X - Professional development and networking events that bring together women in a specific industry.

Why Join SWE

Your community is critical to your persistence in engineering. At SWE, you join a community of 40,000+ members and allies that empower you to succeed. As a member, you gain access to a diverse, global network of engineers who are with you at each stage of your engineering journey.

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM	Breakfast Open Networking Craft Station Atrium	
9:30 AM	Opening Comments and Networking Activity Rm 101	
10:00 AM	Morning Keynote: Dale Wilsher Cultivating Authentic Confidence Rm 101	
11:15 AM	To All the Mentors I've Loved Before: IRL and Otherwise Shannon McAvoy Room 231	Am I Technical Enough? Why Women in Tech Doubt Ourselves Beth Kent Room 101
12:00 PM	Lunch Atrium	
1:15 PM	Turning Creativity Into Reality with Gen AI Emily Durie-Johnson, Room 231	Breathe and Build: Tackling Work Stress and Anxiety Rachel Turner Room 101
	Mission Ready: Lessons from 911 that Make us Better Aerospace Engineers Karen Rucker, Room 231	
2:00 PM	Break / Afternoon Refreshments	
2:30 PM	Afternoon Keynote: Kaitlin J. Bunker, Ph.D, P.E. Is it Luck, or Is it YOU? Rm 101	
3:30 PM	Awards Program Rm 101	

ACTIVITIES



BREAKFAST + OPEN NETWORKING

Join event attendees before the event kicks off with opening comments. We'll provide a light breakfast to get the day started. This open networking room has no agenda, so feel free to share what brings you to this event or what you are excited about learning. Connect with new faces or reconnect with your conference pals.

Grab beverage or bagel of choice and Wake Up with SWE.

CRAFT STATION

Come explore your creative side with the craft station at the Spring Summit. Make your own SWE friendship bracelet! The station will be open throughout the day. Make sure to stop by to make your own souvenir to commemorate your time at 2025 Spring Summit.



LUNCH NETWORKING

Unwind between morning and afternoon sessions with a catered lunch. Chat and connect with other event attendees and grow your network with other SWE members. Discuss new jobs, new adventures, as well as career advice. Visit the Networking Tables and say THANK YOU to our sponsors and maybe even find your next career step. We encourage you to take this time to get to know our speakers and learn from their expertise!



OPENING KEYNOTE



DALE WILSHER

Dale Wilsher, PCC, CPLCC, CCSP, will present the morning Keynote Cultivating Authentic Confidence. In male-dominated fields, women often encounter unique challenges that test their confidence and leadership potential. This engaging and interactive session equips participants—both emerging and experienced professionals—with the tools to cultivate authentic confidence by leveraging their strengths, aligning with their values, and projecting a powerful presence. Attendees will explore key mindset shifts, learn to navigate self-doubt, and develop practical strategies to communicate with authority and lead with impact, whether in the classroom, workplace, or beyond.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE



KAITLYN J. BUNKER, PH.D., P.E.

Kaitlyn Bunker, PhD, PE will present the afternoon Keynote Is it Luck, or Is it YOU. The concept of luck can show up in unexpected ways in our careers. In this session, we will explore opportunities to unlock our confidence as leaders, within the framing of luck. Kaitlyn's experiences in the workplace and as a leader in SWE have emphasized the importance of striking the right balance among embracing luck when it comes, while not relying on luck or letting it take credit for your hard work and accomplishments. She will share her experiences and suggestions to support attendees in embracing their own ideal balance and approach to leading and succeeding with confidence.

SESSIONS

To All the Mentors I've Loved Before: IRL and Otherwise

This session explores the dynamics within growth-oriented relationships and their significance in personal and professional development. It examines three key relationship types: coaches, mentors, and advocates. We will learn how to cultivate a "Personal Board of Directors", a diverse group of mentors spanning various life domains, including professional, health, and personal passions.

Shannon McAvoy

ReNu Technologies, Director of Technical Service

Shannon is responsible for the team of technical engineers that provide technical evaluations, KPI reporting, data analysis/reconciliation, and economic value at ReNu Technologies. She has spent 10 years working downstream oil and gas industry and has a Bachelor's degree in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering from Colorado School of Mines.

Am I Technical Enough? Why Women in Tech Doubt Ourselves

Despite their expertise, many women in tech grapple with self-doubt, questioning whether they are "technical enough" to belong. This session explores the root causes of this doubt, from societal expectations to workplace dynamics, and provides actionable strategies to build confidence, own technical expertise, and challenge imposter syndrome. Whether you're an engineer, leader, or aspiring technologist, join us to reframe the narrative and step into your power with certainty..

Beth Kent

Cascade Change Consultants, Founder and Chief Engineer

Beth's organization specializes in process optimization for regulated industries like Aerospace & Defense and Medical Devices. With experience at Lockheed Martin and Medtronic, she has worked on everything from satellite systems to neurosurgical navigation. A passionate advocate for women in STEM, she blends technical expertise with leadership coaching to empower professionals. Through her work in quality management, engineering, and agile transformation, she helps teams build confidence, navigate self-doubt, and drive impactful change.

Breathe and Build: Tackling Work Stress and Anxiety

Discover how proper application of breathwork and strength training can help you navigate stress and anxiety so you feel empowered and in control during high-pressure situations. We'll explore how breathwork and strength training can boost mental resilience, reduce stress, and be effective tools to help you stay calm and effective in challenging situations.

Rachel Turner

B.S. Architectural Engineering, NASM CPT, NSCA Program Design Specialist, Eleiko Weightlifting Level 1

SESSIONS

Lightning Sessions
20 Minutes Each

Turning Creativity Into Reality with GenAI: Lessons in Overcoming Imposter Syndrome to Bring a Silly Website Idea to Life

When an exciting new idea strikes, how ready are you to turn it into reality? Recently, I used Generative AI to kick-start and complete my very first side project—all within a single weekend. In this session, I'll share the pros, cons, and key takeaways from leveraging Generative AI to supercharge your confidence, overcome analysis paralysis, and transform your next big idea into reality. Whether you're new to AI or a seasoned pro, you'll gain insights on how to apply these tools to accelerate learning and bring your creative projects to life.

Emily Durie-Johnson

Medtronic, Software Engineer

With 7 yrs at Medtronic, Emily has led software teams and developed medical-grade, safety-critical software. A passionate mentor, she has guided dozens of aspiring engineers through formal mentorship programs and FIRST Robotics. With BS degrees in Computer Science and Neuroscience from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Computer Science from Georgia Tech, she is actively involved in organizing local meetups for Georgia Tech's Online Masters Program.

Mission Ready: Lessons from 911 That Make Us Better Aerospace Engineers

Confidence in high-stakes engineering doesn't just come from technical expertise—it's built through experience handling pressure, making quick decisions, and staying composed when the stakes are high. Drawing from my years of experience answering 911 prior to my 7 years of experience in aerospace, we'll discuss how emergency response skills—such as rapid problem-solving, clear communication, and decisive action—translate to engineering leadership and success.

Karen Rucker

BAE Systems (formerly Ball Aerospace), Senior Space Vehicle Telecom Engineer

Karen has 7 years of experience in the aerospace industry where she has worked at Sierra Space, HawkEye 360, NASA Kennedy Space Center, and more. She is a master's candidate in aerospace engineering at CU Boulder. Prior to going back to school for engineering, Karen was a 911 call-taker/dispatcher for 2 years in Texas.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS

Our host venue in partnership is CSU SWE Section is Colorado State University of Fort Collins which offers more than 250 programs of study in 9 schools. The university's scenic campus, nestled at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, reflects the adventurous and innovative spirit of Colorado.

A person stands on a rocky shore, their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or celebration. They are silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky, which transitions from deep orange near the horizon to a lighter, hazy yellow at the top. The person is wearing a long-sleeved shirt and pants. The overall mood is one of achievement and accomplishment.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SUMMIT AWARDS

Outstanding Membership

Kirsten Sargent

Outstanding Outreach

Bomsaerah Seong

Outstanding Professional Development

Claryssa Dunigan

Rocky Mountain Summit Awards are presented each year to SWE members, teams, or collegiates for their outstanding achievements and outstanding contributions to activities within RMS during the fiscal year.

RMS received many nominations in FY25 and are honored to recognize several individuals or groups with Rocky Mountain Summit Awards this year.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

SWE RMS awards three scholarships from our endowments: the Lottie Miner, Dorolyn Lines, and Pioneer Scholarships. These scholarships are for students already enrolled in an ABET accredited program for engineering or computer science, or are re-entering college after earning a previous degree.

Dorolyn Lines Scholarship

Dorolyn Lines was one of the charter members of the Denver Section of SWE. Her tireless efforts helped the Section become dynamic and prosperous, evolving into today's Rocky Mountain Section.

Lottie Miner Scholarship

Lottie Miner joined SWE in 1956 and was one of the early Life Members – the first from the Rocky Mountain Section.

Pioneer Scholarship

The Pioneer Scholarship was established in memory of three pioneering women engineering graduates of the University of Colorado at Boulder: Hilda Counts Edgecomb (1919), Elsie Eaves (1920) and Lou Alta Melton Merrill (1920). They established the American Society of Women Engineers and Architects, a forerunner of SWE.

Entering Freshmen Scholarships

SWE RMS also awards at least three scholarships for students graduating from high school and entering college to study engineering or computer science. One scholarship is typically awarded to a student from a small, more rural school.

Dorolyn Lines Scholarship

Veronica Keith

Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado Boulder

Lottie Miner Scholarship

Claire Turner

Civil Engineering
Colorado State University

Pioneer Scholarship

Srishti Jerath

Biomedical Engineering
University of Colorado Boulder

Entering Freshmen Scholarships

Emma Sewell

Sargent Jr. Sr. High School
Monte Vista, CO

Chloe Davies

Glenwood Springs High School
Glenwood Springs, CO

Reagan Kim

Valor Christian High School
Highlands Ranch, CO

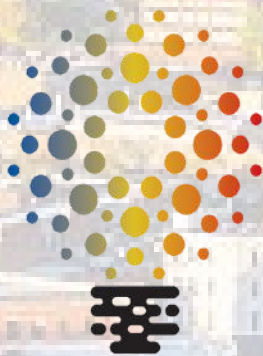
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