

Featured Event: Breaking Barriers Women Unite



On March 5, 2008, the RPI Society of Women Engineers (SWE) joined forces with the women of RPI's Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). The mission – "Breaking Barriers: Women Unite".

RPI is well known for the student demographics, which are – primarily male. By uniting the future women engineers of the university, they were able to discuss the common themes in their motivation to become successful women engineers and to examine the common hurdles they find themselves climbing over. Whether a first-year student or a well-seasoned professional, women in the field of engineering need to band together, regardless of race or ethnic background.

Branching from a workshop from the SWE 2007 Region F Regional Conference held at Northeastern University, "Breaking Barriers: Women Unite" brought together 45 women from these three engineering societies on campus and included five other professionals from academic and industrial communities.

The planning committee (shown below) worked hard to bring this event together.



After two round table discussions, a guest panel was used to give the RPI women a chance approach the diverse guest professionals to answer their curiosities regarding their personal experiences with breaking barriers with other working-world women.

Also in attendance were a few RPI alumni who currently work at Westinghouse. Excited by the incredible success of the program, these inspirational women hope to make the Westinghouse-sponsored event an annual occurrence.

Thank you to our professional attendees (shown below) who made the event a great learning experience.

