



Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach



Providing opportunities, guidance and mentoring to existing and new minority- and women-owned engineering firms in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1995, several consulting engineering firms and government/ municipal officials formed the "Pittsburgh Minority and Women Business Enterprise Engineering Initiative." The name was later changed to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach or SPEO. This group identified the need to provide technical, marketing and general business assistance to minority- and women- owned businesses in the region. Part of this effort included working with local institutions to encourage and financially support young men and women who are interested in starting a career in the engineering profession.

In 2004, SPEO became a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, and in 2006, SPEO attained 501(c)(3) federal income tax-exempt status from the IRS. Over the years, SPEO members have mentored local minority and women-owned business enterprise (MBE/WBE) firms and provided networking and subconsulting opportunities to them. SPEO has also provided scholarships to potential future engineers and scientists, enabling them to attend post- secondary school. SPEO is committed to its mission of increasing the opportunities available to its MBE/WBE members and prospective engineering and science students.



SPEO Mission

The mission of Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach is to:

- Provide opportunities, guidance, and mentoring to existing and new minority and women-owned engineering firms in the area, enabling them to be viable, competitive, self-sustaining members of the business community.
- Enable minority- and women-owned firms to provide competitive employment opportunities that will attract and keep talented and ambitious minority and women engineers in the area.
- Encourage and support youth to enter the engineering profession.



Program Goals

The primary objective of the program is to support and mentor minority and women-owned business enterprise (MBE/WBE) engineering firms in Southwestern Pennsylvania and to enhance their long-term viability. The program provides the opportunities and resources necessary to achieve success. The intent of the program is to assist MBE/WBE firms in the area to:

- Mirror the demographics of the community
- Do business in the community
- Hire minorities and women from the community
- Contribute to the community



Benefits

Program provides assistance in:

- Marketing
- Business mentoring
- Technical mentoring
- Staff development
- Youth engineering initiatives
- STEM Educational outreach
- Scholarships

SPEO partners include:

- Engineering, architecture and construction firms
- Consultants
- Government agencies
- Universities and schools
- Local Businesses



Networking Activities



Annual Events

- February: Opportunities Forum
- Summer: Golf Outing
- September/October: Annual Reception
- Individual Agency Opportunity Forums



Monthly/Quarterly Meetings

- New Member Orientation
- Training Sessions
- Mentor/Protégé Relationship-Building Meetings
- Monthly Board Meetings (Third Tuesday of each month, 8 a.m., Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania)

