

UT WEP: GIRLS EXPLORE ENGINEERING

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ut-austinut-san-antonio-women-of-engineering-tickets-51224555023>

TOTAL HOURS : (2 hrs, 3 people) 6 HR

SUMMARY

UTSA Engineering Dean JoAnn Browning, UT Engineering Dean Sharon L. Wood, and staff and alumnae from both schools discuss their personal and professional journeys, explain the value and benefits of an engineering degree and highlight the many different career paths available for new graduates.

WHO	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHY
High school girls who are interested in pursuing a career in STEM	A special event for high school women interested in pursuing a degree and career in engineering.	October 29, 2018	University of Texas, Austin	Explore a Career in Engineering

OUTCOME

CONNECTING TO COLLEGES: **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

The event was held at UTA's Cockrell School of Engineering. During the event, not only did we explore the beautiful facility, we also got the opportunity to connect with the college students. Female engineering students took over as tour guides for groups of high school students and showed us around. The college students also answered our questions about college life and what it is like to be an engineering major. We were able to talk to mentors similar to our age who we can relate to and gain valuable advice from that we will carry throughout our educational careers.

CONNECTING TO MENTORS: **UT ENGINEERING DEAN SHARON L. WOOD**

The dean of UTA Engineering, Sharon L. Wood, opened up the event with a speech about why there needs to be more women in the engineering field. With decades of engineering experience, Wood shared many stories of the struggles she faced as a woman in the field. Listening to an industry professional share her first-hand experience in a traditionally male-dominated field was both thought-provoking and inspiring to us, as female students.

CONNECTING TO OUR SCHOOL'S **WOMEN IN STEM PROGRAM**

We invited our school's Women in STEM program to this event so we could get the other girls at our school involved in our program as well as learn more about pursuing a future STEM career. They found a lot of value in the event. From here on out, we will continue to work with Vandegriff's WiS program to promote robotics as well as help others find opportunities to get connected to other STEM opportunities.

GAINING INSIGHT & EXPERIENCE

The informative speeches coupled with the panel of guests made for an incredibly helpful experience. Most of the high school students that attended had never thought about a possible career in engineering. After listening to the great things both the college students and faculty had to share, engineering is no longer something that seems so unrealistic. We also feel more prepared for college regardless of major, thanks to the conversations we had with the UTA and UTSA students.

PROMOTING WOMEN IN STEM

With both our group and our school's Women in STEM club attending the event, we were proud to have been able to represent the progress of female students' involvement in STEM programs at Vandegriff. Connecting with groups of talented ladies from other schools was a great motivator for us to want to keep spreading the message. The impact of STEM programs involving women is evident when we attend events like these, where we are all able to share ideas and get to know each other in one place.

POST-EVENT REFLECTION



- **What I Learned:** At the event, I learned that a major in engineering may be something that I decide to look into more. Listening to the presenters discuss their jobs and college experiences, I decided that I want to further explore that path. The panelists were very insightful and provided a great amount of information about the engineering programs at both UTA and UTSF. We got to explore the impressive Cockrell School of Engineering, as well as get an in-depth look at where the students work and spend their time. (*Abby Pomerantz*)
- **What I Learned:** I learned a lot about the engineering programs at UT Austin and UT San Antonio. The alumni who presented at the panel offered valuable insight to what it was like to pursue an engineering career, and we had the chance to talk to other engineering students. This was really valuable because we were able to connect to people our age and get first hand experience from other girls who decided to major in an engineering field. This opportunity really inspired me to consider pursuing a career in engineering. (*Angela Phan*)
- **What I Learned:** I am always open to opportunities that will help me choose my future education path. With so many options, it's nice to have someone with experience in certain fields tell you about what the path entails. The panelists and presenters were very informative and honest, revealing both their achievements and difficulties that they faced throughout their careers as women in STEM. We also learned about the engineering opportunities provided by UT Austin and UT San Antonio. The experience really made me consider a possible career in engineering. (*Mia Thompson*)
- **Summary:** We toured the UT Cockrell School of Engineering, talked to other female engineering majors, listened to the Dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering's speech, talked to a panel of alumni, and learned about the engineering programs offered at UT.