



Engineering Ambassadors Network

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Executive Update

As a senior and active member of three years, it is very exciting to have watched the Engineering Ambassadors Network grow tremendously over such a short duration of time. This past academic year alone, ten new members were selected to join the Engineering Ambassadors organization. Although the group has only been active between the Omaha and Lincoln campuses of the University of Nebraska for four years, Engineering Ambassadors now boasts thirty-one members who stem from a variety of engineering majors offered within the colleges.

Each new executive team offers the promise of unprecedented ideas to better the organization and each of its members. This semester was no exception. In October, the Engineering Ambassadors hosted a certified Gallup Strengths coach to reinforce the positive, unique assets that each

ambassador has to offer to the organization as well as to the K-12th graders whom we aim to reach. We also invited an individual from the Nebraska Human Resources Institute to promote the importance of leadership and effective communication. In a few weeks, graduate students at UNL will be asked to share some of their academic experience, wisdom, and advice for our undergraduate members seeking to continue their education beyond a bachelor's degree.

The Engineering Ambassador network truly embodies a motivated group of individuals who seek to better themselves as well as their communities. I am proud of all that the organization has accomplished and look forward to all future pursuits.



Kelly Weiler
President
Civil Engineering

All About: Discover Engineering Days

Every month, the College of Engineering at UNL offers a unique opportunity for middle school students in and around the Lincoln area called Discover Engineering Days (DED). DED is a day long experience for students to come to the UNL campus and attend a variety of hands-on sessions to expose them to engineering. These sessions can vary from month to month, but the Engineering Ambassadors Network (EAN) always has a session to work with students.

EAN presents our most popular presentations, such as Roller Coasters or Bridges, at DEDs. These presentations have very interactive and exciting activities to go along with them, which is a great way to get students excited about engineering. Students have over half of the 40 minute session to collaborate in small groups to build a bridge that can hold the most weight, or a roller coaster that is safe and exciting. DED gives students a chance to learn that engineering is a group effort and how each person can contribute to a great design.

Besides our normal presentations, EAN also has a chance to help out on the other activities at DED. For example, both LES and Olsson have had activities at DED that require a little help from EAN. These different activities give us a chance to learn something ourselves and interact with companies.

All in all, DED are a great opportunity for middle schoolers to visit the university and learn about engineering. Providing hands on activities gives them a chance to be excited about engineering, rather than just hearing about it. Getting younger students involved with engineering early on is a great learning opportunity and gets them excited about engineering.

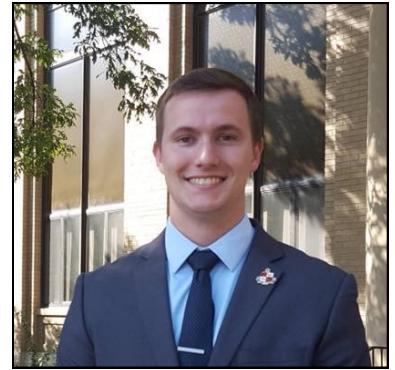
If you're interested to learn more, or to invite ambassadors to your event, check our [website](#).



Interview with a Former Ambassador: Conner Beyersdorf

What did you study during your time at UNL and what do you do now?

I studied Biological Systems Engineering (BS) with an emphasis in Biomedical Engineering. I am currently a first year medical student at the UNMC College of Medicine.



How has Engineering Ambassadors benefited you?

As an ambassador, I was able to improve my ability to articulate complex topics and ideas in simple terms. This has allowed me to better explain the extent of my research in interviews or professional presentations and has helped me to communicate with patients regarding a diagnosis or treatment plan.

What is your favorite memory of being in Engineering Ambassadors?

My favorite ambassador memory is one of the times I was presenting stem cell engineering to a class. I went a little bit deeper into some physiology background for the sake of the presentation, but the 5th graders had questions for 10 minutes about the human body and how different organ systems worked. I felt that I made an impact on the academic development of those students and fostered an interest in science.



Conner helping students with the roller coasters activity

Interview with a Former Ambassador: Shelby Williby

What did you study during your time at UNL and what do you do now?

I studied chemical engineering while I was a student, and now I'm an engineer for Pfizer. I work in their Technical Services department in their Analytical Support division. We make Sterile Injectables (basically hospital drugs) and if something during the production of these drugs arises we help out with any chemistry or analytical analysis.



How has Engineering Ambassadors benefited you?

Being an Engineering Ambassador helped me develop so many skills that I use in my professional life! I work with people with a large variety of knowledge and skill sets, and ambassadors helped me learn how to speak about science and engineering in a way that is understandable and useful to all of these key players. It also gave me the confidence to lead in any position, and, of course, how to make a great presentation.

What is your favorite memory of being in Engineering Ambassadors?

My favorite memory as an ambassador was the year where we took a training class to Penn State for the conference. I was already trained so I helped to train other young ambassadors. I loved getting to mentor, meeting engineers of all types from across the country, and meeting all the people who made Engineering Ambassadors a reality! It's one of my favorite memories of college.



Shelby presenting Hydropower to students

Fundraising Update

As with many student RSOs, there comes a time of the year that a challenge must be faced, plans created, and those plans be executed to near perfection by a group of dedicated people; the Fundraising Committee. We currently have two sponsors, Olsson and Lincoln Electric Systems, that graciously provide us with funds, but we are always trying to increase our funds. For more information about our sponsorship program, see below.

Every college student, current or alumnus, should remember at some point or another hosting or hearing about a bake sale for this organization or an ice cream stand for that one. These ideas can be very successful and show a lot of profit, but require investment, timing, and people. Let's not forget about location, location, location. The Fundraising Committee took these factors into consideration when they decided to have a change of pace this year. Instead of trying to entice, persuade, or otherwise coerce our broke college friends and peers into buying something, they instead decided to invite families to our First Annual EAN Carnival. Many of our presentations are paired with activities geared towards younger individuals ranging from Elementary to High school ages and are meant to be both fun and informative. We wanted to provide an opportunity for the kids, whether they'd done any activities prior or not, to be able to play and learn with our activities. We provided activities covering topics that range from bridges to rollercoasters, to circuitry and optics that allow kids to be creative and innovative. The excitement and problem-solving that came from many of those that attended was what really makes this position worth it.

Using this idea allowed us to cut out one of the biggest factors that could turn a great idea into a loss of money, being that monetary investment factor, which allows for an easier avenue to success. With a total of 40 students that attended, it would seem that this year's fundraising committee may be on the right track to produce some great plans and ideas for the future. And whether it's bake sales or carnivals, we'll always keep you in the loop with our fundraising updates.

For more information about the sponsorship program, contact Sally Wei (swei2@unl.edu) or check out this link: [Partnership Opportunities](#).



Mason Gish

Mechanical Engineering

Ask the Ambassadors:

What is your favorite presentation activity and why?

My favorite presentation activity would have to be the penny boats. Yes, it seems like a simple activity, but the ingenuity kids put into creating different boats is amazing.

Sierra Mendez
Biological Systems
Engineering



Rockets is my favorite presentation! Not only is it the best presentation but it covers something I am very passionate about and I believe that it comes across in my presentation, making the students super excited about space exploration as well.

Auston Viotto
Mechanical Engineering



Ian Ghanavati
Chemical Engineering



My favorite presentation activity is probably rollercoasters because I personally love roller-coasters and the kids have a lot of fun.

Sarah Wangler
Mechanical Engineering

My favorite presentation is Earthquakes because I think it's really interesting and the activity uses the engineering design process and lets the kids be creative!

