



Engineering Ambassadors Network

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Executive Update

We are now approaching the end of our third full year as an organization at the University of Nebraska. It has been amazing to see how far the Engineering Ambassadors have come since our first semester in the Spring of 2015; during that semester we did a modest 19 school visits. In comparison, last school year we completed over 100 events and interacted with over 6100 students. Our group of ambassadors has grown to 29 members today, all committed to spreading the word about engineering!

Not only has our membership increased, so has our repertoire! We now offer 22+ presentations as topics for us to present during school visits and events. This September, the Nebraska Engineering Ambassadors hosted a training workshop attended by our own ambassadors as well as those from Wichita State University and Iowa State University. This workshop was taught by Michael Alley, the creator of the assertion-evidence presentation style we practice. He commented that our Engineering Ambassador Program, modelled after the founding program he helped to create at Penn State, is leading the midwest!

This year, the Nebraska Engineering Ambassadors aims even higher! We want to increase our efforts to reach more students this year. We have already scheduled several events for this fall, and still have room for more. If you would like to schedule an event, please visit our [website:](http://engineering.unl.edu/engineering-clubs/engineering-ambassador-network) <http://engineering.unl.edu/engineering-clubs/engineering-ambassador-network>

Another goal we have for this year is to work with local companies in building our program. Check out the fundraising update from Evan to learn more!



Rachael Wagner
President
Mechanical Engineering

All About: Solar Eclipse Booth

This year the Engineering Ambassadors were given the opportunity to participate at the Science and Engineering Expo at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, NE, during the Solar Eclipse. The Engineering Ambassadors were one of many booths set up at the event, all of which were there promoting STEM. Kids and families attending the event were able to walk around and visit the various booths, which included other UNL clubs as well. Each booth had different activities focused on STEM to get kids engaged and interested in their topics.



The Engineering Ambassadors booth had a few activities for kids, including a matching game involving man made items and their corresponding natural items they came from, clothespin and popsicle sticks to try their hand at building structures, and some color changing beads that changed color under UV lights. The event was a unique opportunity for the clubs and community alike and we were glad to have the chance to watch the Solar Eclipse and teach kids about engineering.

The Nebraska Engineering Ambassadors visit schools and the community to educate the future generations about engineering, and the amazing opportunities that come with it. We use interactive presentations and/or hands-on activities to explain new concepts and get the kids excited about STEM fields.

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



Sarah Wangler and Jami Turnquist teaching students about engineering.



Interview with a Former Ambassador: Lexie Oak

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

I graduated from UNL with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I currently work for Union Pacific in Omaha, NE as an Engineering Associate in their Signal Department.

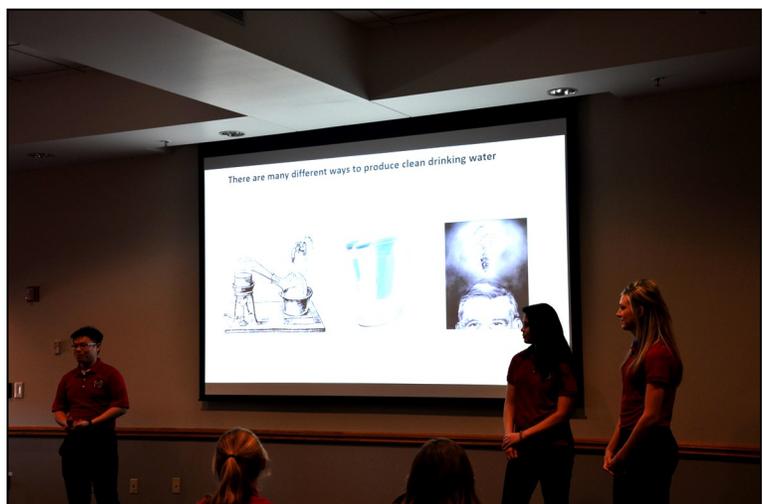


How has Engineering Ambassadors benefited you?

As a new employee in the workforce, Engineering Ambassadors has benefitted me in several ways. There is no doubt though that the public speaking aspect of the group has far outweighed the others. For two and a half years as an ambassador I learned crucial presentation and public speaking skills that I still utilize today at my job. In addition I had the opportunity to build various relationships with members, teachers and students that still exist today. There is so much to be thankful for as an alum of this group.

What did you love most about ambassadors?

What I loved most about Engineering Ambassadors was the opportunity given to create such a huge impact in the lives of students. Whether it was for half an hour or several hours at a time, I enjoyed interacting with the students and helping them learn the true meaning of engineering. I can guarantee you that I had as much fun with the students as they did with the other ambassadors and myself. I can honestly say I never left an event without a smile on my face.



Lexie delivering the Water Purification Presentation



Fundraising Update

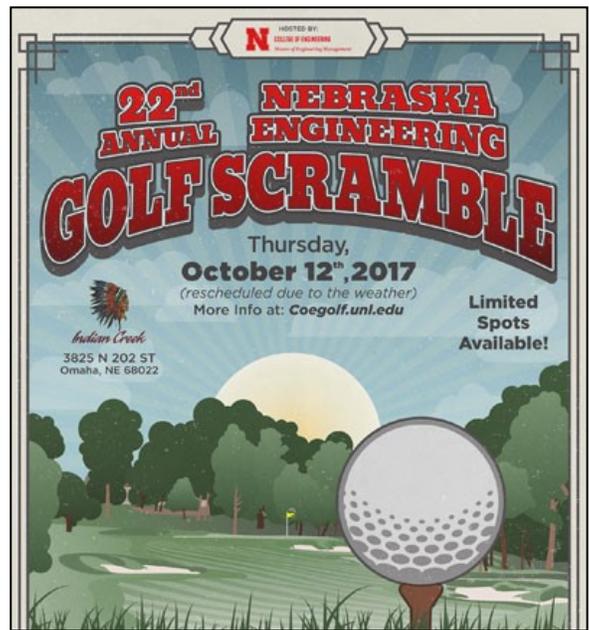
Fundraising has been full steam ahead since last fall! Last April, we created an ice cream bar with all the toppings you could dream of. It was night of fundraising, bonding, and sugar! We hope to participate in the Engineering Golf Scramble again, and we are planning a hot chocolate and cookie bar for the fall. Finally, we are excited to announce the launch of our new sponsorship program. With this, we can work more closely with engineering firms and other donors. Some of the benefits of this program include presentations developed around your company projects, opportunities to share your expertise in your field, and your logo on our website. For more information about the sponsorship program, contact Sally Wei (swei2@unl.edu) or check out this link: [Partnership Opportunities](#). We can't wait to see what other opportunities this semester will bring!



Ambassadors working the Ice Cream Fundraiser in Spring 2017.



Evan
Fundraising Chair
Mechanical Engineering



The Nebraska Engineering Golf Scramble, a yearly fundraiser the Engineering Ambassadors participates in.



Ask the Ambassadors:

Why did you choose to join Engineering Ambassadors?

I knew I wanted to get involved in something that related to my major and would help with social skills so I decided to apply. Now, a year later, I am the recruitment chair of Omaha and am hoping to recruit even more good candidates for the club.

Mitch Rhoades
Civil Engineering



I chose engineering ambassadors because I was excited about letting kids know what engineers do. A lot of kids in high school, including myself at the time, don't have a good grasp on what engineering is. In addition, I think it's important to excite kids about STEM fields, especially as we see our society progress in technology.

Dylan Rogers
Mechanical Engineering



Jami Turnquist
Chemical Engineering



I wanted to join Engineering Ambassadors because it was a way to get involved, specifically in my department. I thought it looked like a great opportunity to meet new people, network, and to do outreach programs at schools because I know this is something I benefited from personally.

Rachael Wagner
Mechanical Engineering



I know there are many students who declare engineering as their major when they enter college who do not really understand what an engineer is, and I want to change that. With our outreach presentations, I hope that students discover that they might want to be engineers and begin to understand what an engineer does to help the world.