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**SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS**  
**2003 CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BIRMINGHAM**

*Birmingham To Host Over 3,000 Engineering Professionals and Students*

(Birmingham, AL) – The annual 2003 Society of Women Engineers (SWE) conference, “Supporting the World Through Engineering,” will be held in Birmingham, AL October 9 – 11. Over 3,000 attendees are expected including professionals from every facet of the engineering profession and a large number of engineering students and educators.

More than 60 technical papers will also be presented either verbally or as an exhibit at the conference, as well. This competition allows others in the profession to view and study work presented by colleagues from around the nation.

“The national conference is a wonderful opportunity for engineers across the country to network with other leading professionals, as well as attend several career development programs,” said Kathryn Mergl, conference chair.

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## **SWE National conference – add one**

“There will also be tremendous opportunities for continuing education as well as a chance to view papers entered in the competitions.”

Enterprise, Environment and Education comprise the three major career areas to be covered in the conference. A separate keynote speaker will address each of these on subjects. Other programs will focus on the launching point into the profession, centering equipping young women to begin an engineering career and providing those already in the profession with invaluable advice for furthering their career.

Ellen J. Kullman, group vice president of DuPont Safety & Protection, will address the topic of enterprise. Dr. Kathie Olsen, associate director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, will address the topic of environment. Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, will be the keynote speaker on the education track.

**The 2003 national conference sees a shortened schedule to provide a closer link between students, professionals and employers.** Also new this year is a two-day career fair, offering students the opportunity to network with up to 200 potential employers.

Students of engineering will also have other interests in attending the conference. They can attend sessions such as:

**How To Work A Career Fair** – helping students prepare to obtain maximum benefits as they speak with recruiters at career fairs;

**Finding Scholarships** – tips on using SWE and other professional societies to maximize success at funding their education;

**Building Your Resume** – planning activities throughout their undergraduate program to develop skills employers are looking for.

- more -

## **SWE National Conference - add two**

There will also be a session on “Salary Negotiation,” “Choosing a Graduate School,” “Selecting a Job Offer,” and “How to Prepare For The Fundamentals of Engineering Exam.”

A mentoring banquet will be held at the McWane Center prior to the Student Awards Ceremony at the Alabama Theater. Students will be matched to practicing engineers with similar professional interests.

The conference will also feature Birmingham and the surrounding areas to visitors that have never been to the Magic City before. The conference has lined up dozens of interesting and intriguing tours for first-timers to get a chance to see parts of Birmingham that may be unexpected.

Visitors will be able to tour the Birmingham Museum of Art, Marshall Space Flight Center and Boeing Facility, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, Miller Steam Plant, Vulcan Materials, Mercedes Benz, DeSoto Caverns, Sloss Furnace, Cahaba Pumping Station, Vulcan Park, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Civil Rights Museum, Bud’s Best Cookies, Birmingham Zoo and much more.

The Society of Women Engineers is a non-profit educational service organization dedicated to making known the need for women engineers and encouraging young women to consider an engineering education. For more information on SWE and the annual conference, visit [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) or [www.swe2003.org](http://www.swe2003.org).

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