



Society of
Women Engineers

Georgia Institute of Technology

Region D Conference 2009

Bid Proposal

I. Introduction

It is with much pride and enthusiasm that the Georgia Institute of Technology student section of the Society of Women Engineers presents this proposal to host the Region D conference for 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. Located in the heart of Region D, Georgia Tech is not only the home of the largest collegiate section in Region D, but it is a national and international leader in scientific and technological research and awards the largest number of undergraduate engineering degrees to women. Consistently ranked in the top five engineering schools in the nation, Georgia Tech has nationally-ranked internship and cooperative education programs with strong ties to industry. Atlanta itself is a dynamic cosmopolitan city, a major commercial and transportation hub of the southeast United States, and the home to many major corporations including Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Southern Company, UPS, Home Depot, Georgia-Pacific, and many more. For the sixth year in a row, Atlanta ranked third in the nation among cities with the most FORTUNE 500 headquarters. Forbes chose Atlanta as the third best city in the nation for young professionals. With pleasantly mild springtime weather, Atlanta holds many opportunities for women engineers and offers a wide variety of cultural activities and attractions including the world's largest aquarium and the new World of Coca Cola.

II. Conference Description

Women in engineering have enormous potential to help address the major global concerns of the next several years. Georgia Tech's College of Engineering strives to provide an interdisciplinary environment that anticipates and meets the needs of tomorrow's world. Prominent research initiatives underway include energy, environment, health, and security. With the second largest number of women tenured/tenure-track faculty members, Georgia Tech is the ideal location to host a conference about "Innovation and Collaboration: Fueling the World of Tomorrow." We will have a workshop highlighting the research of women professors at Georgia Tech who are conducting significant research in these key areas. Another workshop will highlight Georgia Tech's efforts at sustainability and how the campus has incorporated fascinating features into its new buildings. We will also have a forum to discuss the solutions to some of the major global challenges in which engineers are playing a key role.

Additional workshop topics such as keeping your skills current, wealth management for women, creating a professional image, and self-defense will appeal to both professional and student members. We will have a panel discussion about pursuing a graduate education with a mixture of women graduate students, professors, and professionals. A second panel discussion will focus on non-traditional engineering jobs.

The Student Center located in the center of campus will fully accommodate all conference events. The Student Center Ballroom (accommodates 500) as well as several smaller rooms (each accommodates 40-50 people) can be reserved. There are several hotels located within walking distance of campus, and rooms with a range of prices will be blocked. The conference will take place from Friday, March 6, 2009 to Sunday, March 8, 2009. Friday's schedule will include mostly opportunities for professional tours and site-seeing around Atlanta. An industry tour at a nearby plant is also being pursued as an option. Friday's events will conclude with a welcome dinner and keynote speaker. Saturday's schedule will include the various workshops, a career fair, and region meetings. Keynote speakers for lunch and dinner on Saturday are being considered. The conference will end on Sunday morning with a farewell breakfast and award ceremony.

III. Budget / Estimated Costs

Registration

- Student Fee \$45 early, \$55 late
- Professional Fee \$85 early, \$95 late
- Non-member Student Fee \$55 early, \$65 late
- Non-member Professional Fee \$100

Transportation

- Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson airport has several car rental choices, but attendees who do not wish to rent a car may ride the MARTA rail system from the airport to the Midtown stop, then take the (free) Tech Trolley to the Georgia Tech campus.
- Buses will be provided for tours; all conference dinners and workshops will take place on-campus where there are complimentary shuttles to get around Georgia Tech.

Lodging

- A block of rooms will be reserved at a group rate in various hotels within walking distance to the Georgia Tech campus. Cost per room will not exceed \$124 per night.

IV. Incentives

- Tours of the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca Cola museum, Inside CNN Atlanta Studio Tour, and the High Museum of Art
- Fascinating workshops and a large career fair with several major companies
- Accommodations located within walking distance of campus
- Airport only 20 minutes (13 miles) away from Georgia Tech and if flying in, no car rental necessary
- Atlantic Station's outdoor mall, restaurants, and 16-screen Regal movie theatre are merely 5 minutes away from campus
- Various local attractions including: Fabulous Fox Theatre, Centennial Olympic Park, Underground Atlanta, Stone Mountain, and shopping at upscale shopping centers Phipps Plaza and Lenox Square

V. Resources

We have the full support of both the Georgia Tech College of Engineering and the Atlanta SWE Professional section, as well as the resources of the Women in Engineering program at Georgia Tech. The ATL-SWE section has over 130 members and several active ATL-CPC companies including Southern Company, Kimberly-Clark, and Siemens. We have over 170 members, of which approximately half are actively involved. Although we expect to continue growing our membership, more than 100 of our current members are underclasswomen and will be present in 2009. There are numerous corporations either headquartered or with offices around Atlanta that can be tapped for sponsorship.

VI. Conclusion

The Georgia Tech SWE section is thrilled at the prospect of hosting the 2009 Region D Conference. With the experience of hosting the regional conference in 2000 combined with the tremendous resources available, we feel extremely confident that the conference will be as dynamic and refreshing as our own city of Atlanta.