

Catalysts for positive change.

Northwestern Engineering women find the respect, support, and inspiration they need to lead the future of engineering.

Northwestern | 150 YEARS OF WOMEN

As Northwestern University marks 150 years of enrolling women as undergraduate students, Northwestern Engineering celebrates our currently enrolled female students, poised to become catalysts for change. As they stand on the shoulders of the women who broke gender and bias barriers before them, these students reflect on their time at the McCormick School of Engineering, telling how they found the respect, inspiration, and support necessary to make change for good.

Written by Julianne Hill
Photography by Steven Gross

I'm an application reader for MMM—the combined management and engineering degree. I love reading why students want to come here. MMMs are amazing. Everyone is curious, thoughtful. In Mindful Product Management, we worked with UNICEF to determine how to reach millennials to keep UNICEF relevant. I enjoyed working with a nonprofit that I really believe could make a difference, and I valued designing solutions that were inclusive and thoughtful.



BROOKE SCHULER

MMM Program (MBA + MS Design Innovation)

Master's candidate

Houston, Texas



HADALLIA BERGERON

Materials Science and Engineering

PhD candidate

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada



▲ My experience stems from the people I've met. The Materials Science Association has such a good culture—everyone is welcome. The Graduate Society of Women Engineers has really grown. I was a co-mentor in Science Club, which partners with the Boys & Girls Club. In the Hersam Lab, I helped build the metal organic chemical vapor deposition system. My involvement let me form relationships I'll have for the rest of my life.

▶ One of the first things I did at Northwestern was join the solar car team. I saw the car, and thought, this is it! I ended up as project manager. Our car went to the Formula Sun Grand Prix. It was very exciting. Sustainable transportation interests me. As engineers, we have the privilege of knowing how things work. We owe it to the universe to make it better.



IEVA STAKVILEVICIUTE

Mechanical Engineering and Manufacturing and Design Engineering

Senior

Šiauliai, Lithuania

NU solar
Driven by Innovation, Fueled by the Sun



CLAIRE PETERSEN

Environmental Engineering and Economics

Senior

St. Louis, Missouri



SWETHA MARISETTY

**Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences
with Kellogg Certificate in Managerial Analytics**

Senior

Bettendorf, Iowa

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Every time I've wanted to try something at Northwestern, I've never heard anyone say no. I've played soccer, worked in a lab, helped write a research publication, and even became a Rhodes Scholar finalist. The support I've had is amazing. I'm proud of my growth here. I don't have to be afraid of what happens after I graduate. I have the foundation to do whatever I want to do.

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I've found so many opportunities. I serve on the student board of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, and I'm involved with Tufaan Entertainment, which promotes South Asian arts and education. At Design for America, my team paired with the Open Doors Organization, developing design ideas to help parents of kids with autism avoid areas in airports that trigger sensory overload. Support from female mentors helps me do it all.



▶ I'm president of the National Society of Black Engineers—interestingly, all NSBE presidents have been women during the past few years. Seeing women who look like me in higher positions is empowering. I volunteer at the Peer Health Exchange. We go into Chicago Public Schools and teach sexual health and mental health to high school students. We're near peers—not as “adultly” as teachers. We have honest conversations. It's very real.

I love that McCormick encourages us to explore beyond engineering. I've taught a web design course for middle school kids at the Center for Talent Development and coding for the Medill Cherubs program. I'm a peer mentor for computer science classes. And, I helped found Develop + Innovate for Social Change, so we could use our tech skills for social good. We help local nonprofits, like the Levy Senior Center. It's so rewarding.

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SKYLAR LADSON-GARY

Chemical Engineering

Junior

Las Vegas, Nevada



ANNA DENG

Computer Science

Senior

Davis, California