Intercultural Competencies + Inclusivity in Engineering and Society

Bios and Headshots

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Description of Theme and Research Question

Research Question: **What competencies or skills should we develop to ensure that we advance intersectionality within the educational environment and the modern workplace?**

Today, our engineering students expect to achieve a certain level of competence within different disciplines by their date of graduation. With a rapid change in new age education, degrees alone become obsolete as workplaces diversify to scope areas outside of engineering curricula. Although a challenge before the pandemic, COVID-19 has not only exposed a need for socio-politically and culturally competent engineers that can work with fellow engineers, scientists, politicians, and the general public, but has also exposed a fundamental lack of proactive pedagogy that exists within current engineering curricula.

This activity seeks to strengthen the intersectional component in engineering education environments, as well as the digital and in person workspace. By doing this, we aim to reduce, not only cultural discrimination, but all forms of rejection towards an individual based on any trait of their identity (be that gender, sexual orientation, class, nationality, language, disability, etc.). Awareness of intersectionality, as a study of the dynamics between individual identity and power structures, will allow us to create more inclusive spaces in engineering,

By creating multi-disciplinary tracks and providing proactive and relevant socio-econo-political tools for engineers to apply within engineering curricula, students benefit from intersectional competence and ways of thinking from liberal arts and social sciences. Students will be able to enter an era up to date with social needs and inspired to innovate for a sustainable future. The rise of circular design requires students to fully understand circular engineering's depth next to social issues, not separate from them.
This sub-theme aims to provide students and faculty with an opportunity to interact with industry and changemakers to scope the education students see their future needs and takeaways on implementing these changes in the classroom.

Description of Activity

Intersectionality in engineering: conference, working groups to develop a social media strategy and presentations. Women in engineering have gained notoriety in the male-dominated engineering fields, their experience can pave the way for more diverse and inclusive spaces in engineering.

Timeslots

TBD