The engineer in me
The engineer in YOU!
Small motorcycle shop owners

Top of her class
Bioengineer!
What are the numbers?
What are some challenges?

- Discouragement at a young age
- Confidence gap
- Inherent gender biases
- Imposter syndrome
- Lack of role models
Why is it so important to have women in STEM?
Why is it so important to have women in STEM?
What can you do?
What can you do?

1. Find opportunities around you!
2. Seek mentors & role models
3. Encourage them & be supportive
4. Change the conversation!
1. Find opportunities around you!

- Engineering Open House (March 11-12, 2016):
  - [http://eoh.ec.uiuc.edu/](http://eoh.ec.uiuc.edu/)
- SWE-Illinois Outreach Events
  - [http://societyofwomenengineers.illinois.edu/outreach/](http://societyofwomenengineers.illinois.edu/outreach/)
- Illinois Geometry Lab
  - [http://math.illinois.edu/igl/](http://math.illinois.edu/igl/)
- Institute of Genomic Biology
  - [http://www.igb.illinois.edu/](http://www.igb.illinois.edu/)
- I-STEM
  - [http://www.istem.illinois.edu/](http://www.istem.illinois.edu/)
1. Find opportunities around you – Summer!

- GEMS – Rising 7th-8th grade girls
  - [http://gems.cs.illinois.edu/index.php](http://gems.cs.illinois.edu/index.php)
- GAMES Camp – Rising 9th-12th grade girls
  - [www.go.illinois.edu/games](http://www.go.illinois.edu/games)
- WYSE Camp – High schools girls & boys
  - Exploring your options: Rising 11th – 12 graders
  - Discover Engineering: Rising 10th graders
  - [https://wyse.engineering.illinois.edu/summer-camps/](https://wyse.engineering.illinois.edu/summer-camps/)
- Illinois Aerospace Institute – High school boys and girls
  - Rising 9th – 12th graders
  - [http://isgc.aerospace.illinois.edu/iai/](http://isgc.aerospace.illinois.edu/iai/)
2. Seek mentors & role models
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Encourage them to take classes that spark their interest!

Be supportive!
4. Change the conversation!
4. Change the conversation!

Engineering is hard....

Engineers are *creative* problem solvers! Engineers use their knowledge to *overcome* challenges.
4. Change the conversation!

Engineering is only for boys....

With strength and determination, women are capable of being just as successful in engineering as the boys.
4. Change the conversation!

Engineering is boring....

Engineers are essential to our **health**, **happiness**, and **safety**!
4. Change the conversation!

Engineering isn’t cool....

Engineers make a world of difference!
4. Change the conversation!

Engineering isn’t exciting....

Engineer’s help shape the future! An engineer’s most important tool is their **creativity**!
4. Change the conversation!

I’m not perfect, I can’t be an engineer....

Mistakes grow the brain! The brain sparks and grows when we make a mistake, even if we are not aware of it, because it is a time of struggle...
4. Change the conversation!

Engineers make a lot of money....

Don’t focus on the Cha-Ching... focus on the creativity, the collaboration, and the change-making!
Resources

- Society of Women Engineers: [http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/](http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers: [https://www.asme.org/](https://www.asme.org/)
- STEMgIRL: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1fWerMXWBuGzVfVf0B0FgA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1fWerMXWBuGzVfVf0B0FgA)

Women in Engineering at Illinois
wie@illinois.edu