

# **RPI Engineering Ambassadors**





Partnership Opportunities



### Who are we?

We, the RPI Engineering Ambassadors (EAs), are a group of engineering students devoted to inspiring a younger audience to explore the role of engineers in society, educating them on the latest technological breakthroughs and real-world challenges. We visit K-12 classrooms and after-school programs. On visits, EAs share presentations and engaging hands-on activities highlighting the many applications of STEM. All members go through a competitive interview process and extensive communication training.

## Outreach

RPI EA has visited over 75 schools since its establishment. We are dedicated to extending our reach to schools lacking STEM opportunities for students. A school visit typically includes three to six presentations on different STEM topics with an accompanying set of hands-on activities. Members thoroughly prepare their presentations and deliver them to hundreds of students in a day, moving from classroom to classroom with passion and enthusiasm. We provide all of the necessary materials at no cost to the school or program.

Each year, a group of motivated ambassadors take a trip to the Bronx to see three schools in the NYC area. As a result of our annual visit, the schools have developed new STEM opportunities for students leading to an increase in their graduates pursuing engineering. This full-circle moment is a great example of the impact EA can have on younger generations and diversity in the STEM field as a whole.







The RPI Engineering Ambassadors also partner with professors to create presentations on new and innovative research topics. One such project, Bioplastics, allows students to interact with a variety of lab samples provided by an RPI professor. During the hands-on activity, students build their own materials to be put through a series of tensile and strength tests. This partnership focuses our presentations on the newest frontiers of engineering.

Our pillars are:

Outreach
Service
Professionalism



80,000+
Students Reached

75+ Schools Reached

60+
Dedicated Members

11 Engineering Disciplines

> 13 Years Established



### Service

Through a variety of after-school programs, museums, libraries, and other STEM-related events, we spread our love of engineering to a wide







audience in the surrounding region. All EAs volunteer many hours of their time each semester. On campus, we coordinate larger events such as Black Family Technology Awareness Day, National Manufacturing Day events, and Accepted Students Days. Even after the visits end, we attend after-school programs to further foster students' passions. EAs don't stop there; our involvement

extends from FIRST Robotics competitions to Albany International Airport (AIA) collaborations. In partnership with AIA, our MillionAir Event catered to over 600 attendees, tabling with several STEM activities including Tissue Engineering, Semiconductor Design, Snap Circuits, and our hand-designed Wind Tunnel. If there is a chance to inspire students, we'll attend!



# **Professionalism**

Beyond the presentation and communication skills developed through our rigorous training and ample practice, we are dedicated to developing the professional abilities of our members. All new EAs are required to complete a lengthy weekend conference where they create a unique presentation that will be school-ready to present with other universities in the network. There are also mandatory semesterly refresher courses for all EAs to further improve classroom management and confidence when presenting. Additionally, members are required to attend at least two professional development events on campus such as a resume review or career fair. Leveraging our extensive alumni network, our professional development coordinator connects current students with an individualized alumni mentor and prepares Q&A sessions on a variety of career-related topics including but not limited to pursuing further education, major-specific career paths, and interview prep.



# Why support RPI EA?

- EA has a wide reach and you can too! There are plenty of opportunities for media coverage at our events where our partnership could be featured. Your logo would also be featured as one of our sponsors on our website.
- We interact with the greater student body through on-campus volunteerism.
- RPI EA has a fantastic pool of candidates for internship, co-op, and full-time opportunities.
   With a partnership, you would foster the growth of top student leaders and receive access to a selective resume book.

"The Engineering Ambassador program has proven to be a win-win experience for both Rensselaer Engineering and K-12 students.

Ambassadors develop confidence with presenting complex engineering concepts in an engaging way. Young students can see what engineering is about first hand." - Michelle Skomsky, Program Manager

# How can you partner with EA?

### Support the development of STEM presentations and hands-on activities

Does your company have interesting equipment or expertise that could help us to develop a dynamic STEM outreach presentation? You can provide a technical mentor on a topic in your field, specialized to your strengths and innovations. It is a perfect opportunity to excite students about your company's work. Your sponsorship would also support EA's ability to provide materials and transportation for each outreach event.

### Support a professional development event

The Engineering Ambassadors are committed to developing themselves as exceptional leaders and communicators. Throughout the year, we have a variety of leadership and professional development events led by experts in these fields. Representatives from your company are invited to participate in events to share information about your company and help to teach the engineers of the future. Your company will be recognized on our website as a sponsor and provided with an opportunity to empower the next wave of engineers.

### Support an outreach or service event

Looking to impact students in the capital region and beyond? RPI EA provides all the materials for outreach events. Through a one-time gift, your company can support some of these visits. When appropriate, your company will be mentioned during presentations at schools and recognized on our website.







Thanks for your time and consideration regarding the RPI Engineering Ambassadors! For inquiries and further information, please contact Michelle Skomsky, Pre-College Education and Outreach Program Manager, at skomsm@rpi.edu or rpiengineeringambassadors@gmail.com.

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