

Women Leaders of Science and Engineering

CMU Material Science and Engineering Department



The Problem

While women represent 48% of our nation's workforce, as documented in a 2019 study, women in academia continue to represent only 27% of the teaching and research faculty across institutions. This disparity becomes even more severe when evaluating the number of WOC/BIPOC in academia.

The Solution

Founded with the mission to support graduate women in the CMU Material Science and Engineering department through mentorship and professional guidance, Women Leaders of Science and Engineering offers graduate women the chance to sit and interface with faculty candidates and technical seminar visitors of the MSE department in weekly lunches and coffee chats. These events give graduate women the chance to ask harder questions about life and career planning, motivational guidance, and the ability to learn from our speaker's journey in the male-dominated field that is Material Science and Engineering.

Goals

1. Connect graduate students with women of academia and industry leaders in MSE
2. Foster a space for community, advocacy, and raise awareness for all of the MSE department
3. To champion WOC and BIPOC representation in our graduate faculty positions



Next Steps

- Connect with the full spectrum of graduate women (admitted, current, post-doc, alumni)
- Engage and foster faculty connections with other CIT Departments

Challenges

- Engaging all graduate needs and securing department buy-in.
- Lowering the barrier to entry for busy students/better incentives