2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT

Engineering Ambassadors Network

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2025-2026 Academic Year Impact Report

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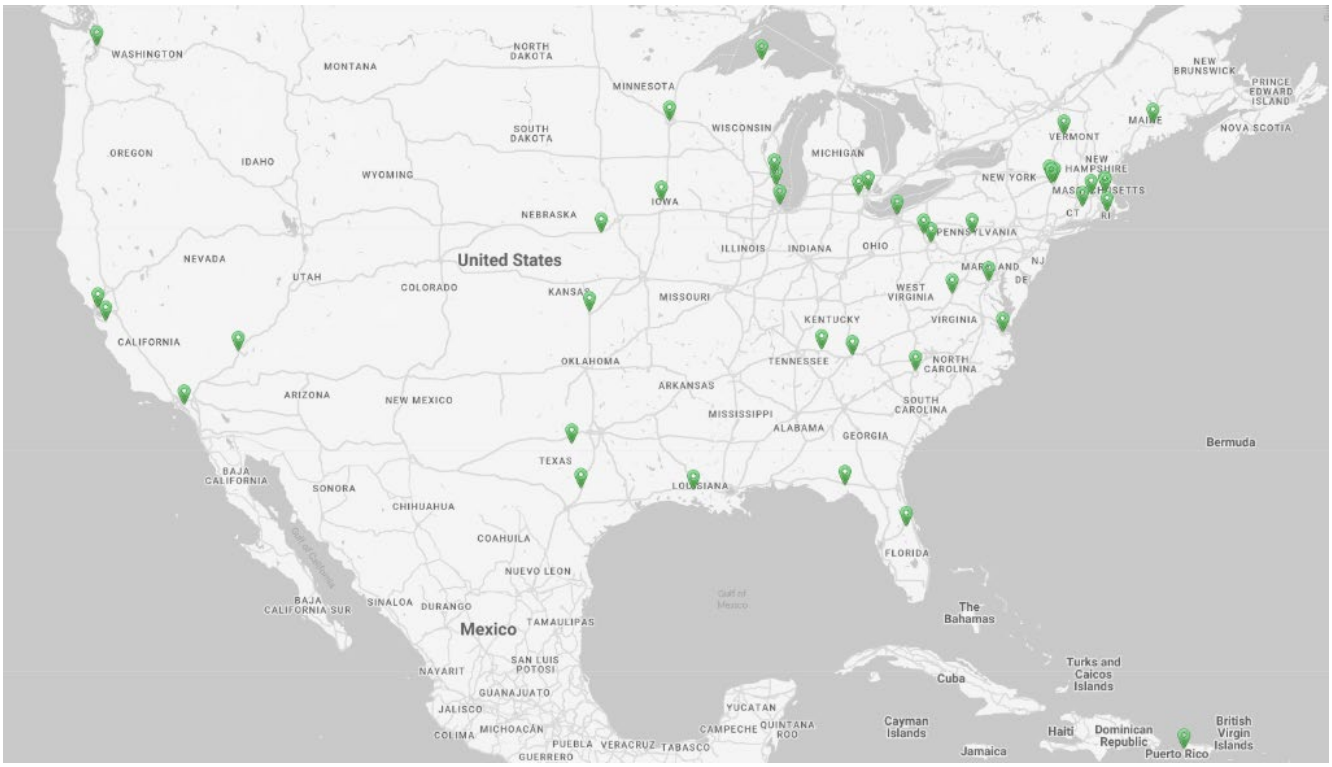
Current State of the Network

There are 39 total programs across the nation and in Puerto Rico. 38 of these programs are active. Milwaukee School of Engineering is working on obtaining funding to start its program, but has committed to getting one up and running. Union College has stopped responding and is no longer part of the network. The University of North Carolina – Charlotte has changed their model and decided to no longer be part of the network. The University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez was not able to complete any outreach events in the spring semester due to strikes across its campus.



Workshops

Northeast

The Pennsylvania State University hosted 164 people from 6 different programs. 81 new ambassadors were trained.

Southeast

The University of Florida A&M/Florida State University hosted 52 people from 4 different programs. 41 new ambassadors were trained.

Midwest

The University of Minnesota hosted 85 people from 9 different programs. 60 new ambassadors were trained.

Fall Workshop Data

For the fall 2025 workshops, a pre- and post-workshop self-evaluation was created to get participants thinking about their skills and reporting their outcomes. This evaluation assessed seven skills and the participants' overall communication skills. Participants were asked to rate the increase in their skill level on a range of 0 to 3, with 0 = did not increase, 1 = slightly increased, 2 = moderately increased, or 3 = greatly increased. Evaluations with missing data in more than one area were considered incomplete and were removed from the dataset, resulting in 126 complete evaluations out of the 182 newly trained ambassadors in attendance for a response rate of 69%.

Participants were asked to state their most significant learning experience during the workshop. The data was evaluated, and nine themes were found. Each response was assigned one category. Themes include breaking down concepts, teamwork, confidence, time management, AE presentation style, receiving feedback, networking, listening skills, and awareness of audience background.

Table 1

Participants' Self-Reported Skill Level Post-Workshop

Items	*M*	*SD*
My ability to effectively communicate verbally	2.11	0.82
My ability to provide constructive feedback	1.84	0.95
My ability to receive constructive feedback	1.99	0.95
My ability to understand the impact of non-verbal communication (i.e., body language)	2.21	0.88
My value of effective listening	2.07	0.88
My knowledge of effective facilitation strategies	2.30	0.80
My ability to state my point of view in a group dynamic	2.11	0.92
My overall communication skills	2.17	0.83

NOTE: $n = 126$

Table 2

Participants' Most Significant Learning Experience

Theme	Key Skills/ Takeaways	Number of Responses
Presentation Design & Structure	AE style, clear slides, engaging visuals	20
Real-World Application	Outreach, industry, academics	19
Feedback & Critique	Reflective improvement, mentor feedback	19
Communication & Delivery	Body language, audience engagement, and pacing	18
Confidence & Personal Growth	Overcoming fear, self-efficacy, and performance skills	15
Other	Teamwork, Time management, networking	23

Future workshops

The Northeast workshop will be held September 18-20, 2026, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The Southeast workshop will be held October 2-4, 2026, at the University of Central Florida.

The Midwest workshop will be held October 16-18, 2026, at the University of Minnesota.

Outreach

31 programs reported data for the 25-26 academic year. The EAN reached 69,869 K-12 students. Fall 2025 was another record semester (see Table 6). Half of the events are on campus, and half are off campus.

Table 6

Number of Student Interactions by Semester

Semester	# of Students
Fall 2025	39,292
Spring 2026	30,577
Total	69,869

Note: interaction can last a minute to hours, and one student could have multiple interactions in a visit.

Each event was placed into a grade level category. Most of the outreach was at the high school level.

Table 7

Events by Grade Level

Grade Level	*n*	*% of total events*
Elementary (PK-5)	311	27
Middle (6-8)	296	26
High (9-12)	465	41
All ages (PK-12)	44	4
College	22	2

Each event was placed into a type, differentiating between Presentation and Hands-on Activities or Recruitment/Information Providing events. The majority of the events are the more impactful presentations and hands-on activities.

Table 8

Events by Type

Type of event	*n*	*% of total events*
Presentation and Hands-on Activities	862	76
Outreach presentation/Classroom Visit	583	51
STEM event/fair	173	15
After-school club/group	90	8
Mentoring activity	16	1
Recruitment/Information Providing	275	24
On-campus tour	95	8
Career day/event	69	6
Dean or college event	58	5
Virtual	34	3
Panel event	19	2
Other	1	0

Quotes from the class of 2026

My biggest takeaway from being an EA is interest in STEM is developed at a young age, so our classroom visits can truly change a student's future path in academia!

Most memorable moment was the first time making my own presentation and activity. Applied a lot of my training to create a fun and engaging activity which translated into a great set of visits that the kids enjoyed!

My biggest takeaway from EA is that there are so many fun and engaging ways to get students of all ages interested in STEM topics. Outreach events always remind me why I fell in love with engineering in the first place!

My favorite moment of EA was seeing how much the kids at MAYC enjoyed making the bionic hand. Specifically, how excited they were about problem solving when it wasn't working as expected.

My biggest takeaway from being an EA is that creating a supportive environment where students can learn and explore can have a lasting impact on them. When students feel encouraged, they're more willing to explore STEM beyond the classroom, which can shape their future interests and aspirations, even toward becoming engineers.